Oxfordshire Guardian

Abingdon, Wantage and Faringdon

Weekly leisure guide for in and around Oxford

Thursday, March 15 - Wednesday, March 21, 2018 oxfordshireguardian.co.uk Free

Preserving Henry VIII's cannonballs

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Golf for 5 and pizzas at Gravitee

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Police on the scene at Bromsgrove Cottages in Faringdon in March last year
Picture: *UKNIP*

Mother admits fatal stabbing of her five-year-old son Tyler

By George Welch

A MOTHER has admitted stabbing her five-year-old son to death.

Emma Jackson, of Bromsgrove, Faringdon pleaded guilty to manslaughter by diminished responsibility on Friday.

The 41-year-old was in court following the fatal stabbing of Tyler Warmington at the house in Bromsgrove Cottages, Faringdon on March 14 last year.

She denied murder and the Crown Prosecution Service accepted her guilty plea of manslaughter by diminished responsibility.

Tyler died from multiple stab wounds to the chest, a post-mortem examination revealed shortly after his death.

Prosecutor Alan Blake said at Oxford Crown Court last week that, after obtaining psychiatric reports, the CPS decided there was 'not a realistic prospect of conviction' on the charge of murder.

Jackson was remanded in custody under the care of Littlemore Mental Health Centre by Judge Ian Pringle.

Psychiatric evidence from her doctors will be obtained and prepared before her sentencing at the same court on April 20.w

Coroner Darren Salter said at Tyler's inquest last April that police officers attended the boy's home after staff at his school, Faringdon Primary School, contacted them.

A row of flowers, condolence messages and soft toys decorated the edge of the police cordon as residents paid their respects.

Many people paid tribute to Tyler, who was described as a 'beautiful' and 'well-liked' little boy.

His then-headteacher Laura White was one of those to pay tribute. She said: "Tyler was a lively, happy little boy who particularly enjoyed building things and running around with his friends outside. He will be missed by all at our school."

Resident Karen Draper also said at the time: "News like this is just devastating to a community and will have a resounding effect for a long time to come. We should all be very proud of our community spirit. We have many reasons to take great pride in our little town. R.I.P little man."

Following Jackson's conviction last week another resident, Monique Gale, who lives 'just up the road' from the scene of the crime, said: "[It] still sends shivers down me every time I drive past." [sic]

Jackson was arrested the same day as Tyler's death and was charged on October 10 last year.

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Illegal cigarettes and fake clothing captured in raids

By Owen Hughes

COUNTERFEIT clothing, more than 4,700 cigarettes and Class A and B drugs were all uncovered during an operation to close down fake goods retailers in Banbury last week.

The operation to disrupt the sale and supply of illegal tobacco was carried out by HM Revenue and Customs officers, supported by Thames Valley Police, Oxfordshire County Council's trading standards and Border Force.

The taskforce visited nine retailers in the north Oxfordshire town on March 7 and found more than eight and a half kilos of hand-rolling tobacco, two kilos of chewing tobacco and a bag of tobacco leaves, all believed to be illicit.

The cost of the cigarettes and tobacco found has an estimated total worth of more than £4,000.

Police also arrested a man during the raid after finding what is suspected to be Class A and Class B drugs.

8.55 kilos of hand-rolling tobacco were recovered during the raid
Picture: *HM Revenue and Customs*

Trading Standards seized 31 items of counterfeit clothing and trainers from just one of the premises visited.

Speaking after the operation, Richard Webb, head of community protection services at Oxfordshire County Council, said: "One of our priorities is to tackle illegal trading which undermines legitimate businesses in the county.

"As well as supporting organised crime, the supply of illicit tobacco undermines work to reduce the harm caused by smoking and therefore we will continue to work with our partners to tackle this problem."

Richard Mayer from the Fraud Investigation Service at HMRC, said: "The sale of illegal tobacco and wider criminality will not be tolerated by us or our partner agencies.

"Disrupting criminal trade is at the heart of our strategy to clampdown on the illicit tobacco market, which costs the UK around £2.5billion a year.

"This is theft from the taxpayer and undermines legitimate traders."

Police Sergeant Sarah Nash of Thames Valley Police, said: "This was a fantastic opportunity to work alongside partner agencies and disrupt criminality in Banbury.

"We have also seized a significant amount of illegal drugs from a business premises and enquiries are ongoing in relation to this."

Information about the illegal sale of tobacco should be reported to HMRC's Fraud Hotline on 0800 788 887.

Pupil dies in accident

AN Oxford school is in mourning after a pupil died in a road accident on Sunday.

In an email to parents on Monday, Cherwell School headteacher Chris Price confirmed the 'tragic news' that a Year 9 boy was killed.

Mr Price wrote: "At this time our primary concern is supporting his family, friends and those colleagues who knew him well.

"We have talked to students who knew him well about how they can share memories or thoughts that we can then pass on to his family.

"Our thoughts are with his family and close friends as we all come to terms with this loss."

The school has not yet confirmed the boy's identity or where the incident happened.

Child sex charges

A 65-year-old Wantage man has been charged with child sex offences.

John Chapman, of Saxon Place, faces two counts of engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child under 13 and one of engaging in sexual communication with a child.

The offences allegedly took place on March 4 in Oxfordshire and Berkshire.

Chapman is due to appear at Reading Crown Court on April 9.

Driver arrested after accident causes rush-hour chaos

A MAN has been arrested on suspicion of drug driving after a head-on smash in Didcot.

Police and firefighters attended the two-car crash at about 8am in Broadway, near Aldi, on Tuesday.

Severe disruption was caused to rush-hour traffic flowing in and out of the east side of town.

A 38-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of careless driving and driving while over the prescribed drug limit, police said.

This means he is suspected of exceeding limits for legal medical drugs, not of driving under the influence of illegal drugs.

The man was released under investigation pending the result of blood analysis.

Contact police on 101 quoting reference number 200 13/3/18 if you witnessed or have any information about the incident.

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The Oxford crew take to the lake in their T-shirts, wigs and deeley boppers

OXFORD rowers were pipped to the post by Cambridge as both teams went toe-to-toe in a bid to raise funds for charity at Blenheim Palace on Saturday.

World champion triathlete Sophia Saller, 22, who is studying for her PhD in Combinatorics at Oxford University, captained the three-strong team during the Great British Row Off for Sport Relief.

Crowds gathered along the Grand Bridge to cheer on the teams as they twice raced from one side of the lake to the other in the shadow of the famous Harry Potter Whomping Willow tree.

Cambridge, captained by medical student and YouTuber Chidera Ota, made a strong start across the lake in the first leg.

But it was all change as teams stopped to put on Sport Relief t-shirts, wigs and deeley boppers.

Oxford took the lead for the middle two legs before Cambridge snuck back in front to steal victory away in the final stretch.

Many of the spectators were able to download the Sport Relief app to track the competitors' steps whilst walking around the estate.

Sport Relief returns from March 17 to 23 to raise money by encouraging people to get active.

This year's challenge will be to do one billion steps a day, every day, during Sport Relief week.

Cycle lane plan to boost access to development

DIDCOT residents are urged to have their say on modified proposals for a cycle lane to run both sides of the B4493 Wantage Road.

Oxfordshire County Council wants feedback on its plans which aim to improve access to and from the Great Western Park development, which will accommodate 3,300 homes when completed.

This latest consultation is a modification of plans in 2016 to install a Toucan crossing just east of the junction with Oxford Crescent and a shared-use cycle-way on the northern footway.

However, unlike previous proposals, new plans mean the existing footways would continue to be for pedestrian use only, rather than becoming shared-use.

This means, under new plans, that cycle lanes would be separated from the main carriageway by a kerb.

The existing verge on both sides of the road in the vicinity of Abingdon Crescent would become cycle track.

To accommodate the proposals, the verge on the north side of the road would be removed or narrowed as well as some verge narrowing on the south side.

Visit tinyurl.com/yb79ebjg to feedback on the latest proposals before the April 6 deadline.

Visit tinyurl.com/y8rbewed for details of the previous consultation, carried out in May and June 2016.

Any unresolved objections will be reported to the council's cabinet on May 10.

Casper's journey to help give women better lives

By Owen Hughes

A WANTAGE volunteer 4,000 miles from home is helping to change the lives of poverty-stricken women in west Africa.

Casper Dawson, a former King Alfred's Academy and Oxford City College pupil, is encouraging other young Brits to join him in making the trek across the globe to Réo in Burkina Faso to help women and girls make a fair living.

Casper has been working with a team of fellow British and Burkinabé volunteers on a project to increase women's economic empowerment, enabling them to run profitable and sustainable businesses.

The team from international development charity International Service and its partner organisation UGF CDN are working to improve women's literacy.

The charity is also helping to increase financial independence for women and raise awareness of their rights.

Nearly half of Burkina's population live below the poverty line, while in rural parts of the country, many women have no means of earning an independent income.

Life expectancy for women in the African country is 20 years below the UK, at just 60 years old.

UK Aid funded Casper's travels to Burkina Faso through the International Citizen Service programme.

Casper Dawson has been volunteering in Burkina Faso

Casper said: "Many people here don't have a full education and job opportunities are scarce.

"Lots of people here live in serious poverty and gender equality has a long way to go.

"Our project is focussed on raising awareness on human rights and social justice in member organisations of UGF CDN, reaching hundreds of people in the process.

"We also help women of the UGF fabricate and sell their products so the organisation continues to have a profit and the employees can receive their income.

"We've also run a peer education workshop to teach women how to make other oils from fruits, to widen their knowledge base and skill sets."

Casper and his team have been working with UGF CDN members to produce and market their shea butter, and deliver awareness sessions on HIV/AIDS, FGM and sexual and reproductive health to the wider community.

When Casper returns home on March 23, he will take on an Action at Home project to make sure his new-found skills also benefit people in the UK.

InBrief

Charged over care home neglect

THREE women who worked at a care home placed in special measures have been charged with ill-treatment of residents there.

Thames Valley Police were called to Winterbrook Nursing Home in Cholsey last June after allegations of neglect.

Elizabeth Collins, 61, of Kynaston Road, Didcot, is charged with three counts of ill treatment/wilful neglect of an individual and six counts of breaching a care provider's duty of care resulting in ill treatment/ neglect of an individual.

Mary Craddock, 59, of Egerton Road, Wallingford, is charged with five counts of ill treatment/wilful neglect of an individual.

Joan Lovell, 63, of St Leonard's Lane, Wallingford, faces three counts of ill treatment/wilful neglect of an individual.

They are due to appear at Oxford Magistrates' Court on April 10.

None of the women currently work at the home.

The nursing home was placed in special measures by the Care Quality Commission in July 2017.

It has since been re-inspected and rated as requiring improvement.

Pop along to Oxfam

A pop-up Oxfam shop will be homed at St Ethelwold's House on East St Helen Street in Abingdon on April 21.

As well as clothing, glamorous bags, shoes, new beachwear and jewellery are all welcomed.

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Need to address healthcare

DIDCOT must address its "lack of healthcare" services for residents according to Labour town councillors.

A motion was passed at last week's full Didcot Town Council meeting calling for the entire council to address the healthcare needs of residents.

Cllr Cathy Augustine proposed the motion, seconded by Denise Macdonald with contributions from Cllr Pam Siggers, calling on the council to "put pressure" on bodies responsible for healthcare provision in the region.

She said: "With Sustainability and Transformation Plans being introduced, cuts to services across the county are having a knock-on effect on Didcot. Muscular Skeletal Services continue to be a problem, with physiotherapy centres being reduced from 13 sites across Oxfordshire to nine including Didcot.

"This has a domino effect, putting more pressure on our local service."

Cllr Macdonald added the rapid expansion of Didcot means healthcare is "lagging behind the population growth".

Leader of the Labour Group, Cllr Mocky Khan, said: "We are delighted our motion was passed. Action delivered through the entire town council working together will have a greater impact."

From left, Cllr Pam Siggers, Cllr Des Healy, Cllr Cathy Augustine, Cllr Mocky Khan, Cllr Denise Macdonald

InBrief

Street closed

PART of Ferndale Street in Faringdon will be closed for three days next month.

The county council will close the road between Stanford Road and Lansdown Road on April 23 to allow a fire hydrant to be replaced.

A diversion will need to be taken via London Street.

There will be limited access for emergency vehicles and for homes.

Discuss town future

THAME residents can have their say on their town's future by attending a workshop.

The event, after the annual town meeting on March 27, will be an opportunity for people to be involved in the Thame Neighbourhood Plan review from the earliest stage.

The town meeting is at the Town Hall at 7.30pm.

Join walking tour

WALLINGFORD guided walking tours will return to the town at the end of the month.

The new season returns on March 31 with walks taking place at 11am from the Town Hall every Saturday until September 29.

Tours last a couple of hours and cost £5. Money will be used to support Wallingford Museum.

A special walk around Wallingford Castle, led by curator and historian Judy Dewey, is on March 31.

Rec revamp hit by 1967 error

By George Welch

AN error made 51 years ago limiting a much-needed revamp to community buildings has prompted a town council to call for action.

Wallingford Town Council wants to spruce up the deteriorating Rainbow Recreation Rooms at Bull Croft Park because they are 'well past their serviceable life'.

Built during the Second World War, it is the site of the town's only play park, serving 8,000 residents, but has had no investment for decades and is now 'in desperate need of an overhaul'.

The Rainbow Pre-School, which caters for more than 50 children, as well as the foodbank and the Citizens Advice Bureau use the Rec Rooms.

The town council has long wanted to upgrade the facility but has been hampered by a mistake made in 1967 when the park was registered as a protected town green.

The buildings should have been excluded but, because they were not, and because they are not used exclusively for recreational purposes, means they cannot be replaced.

The town council has worked with Oxfordshire County Council since June 2016 to correct the error so the process of replacement can begin.

But, progress has stalled.

Town councillor Lee Upcraft said: "We would dearly like to offer our valued tenants a fit-for-purpose building which continues to serve the community, but until OCC address the town green issue, we remain unable to develop any meaningful plans.

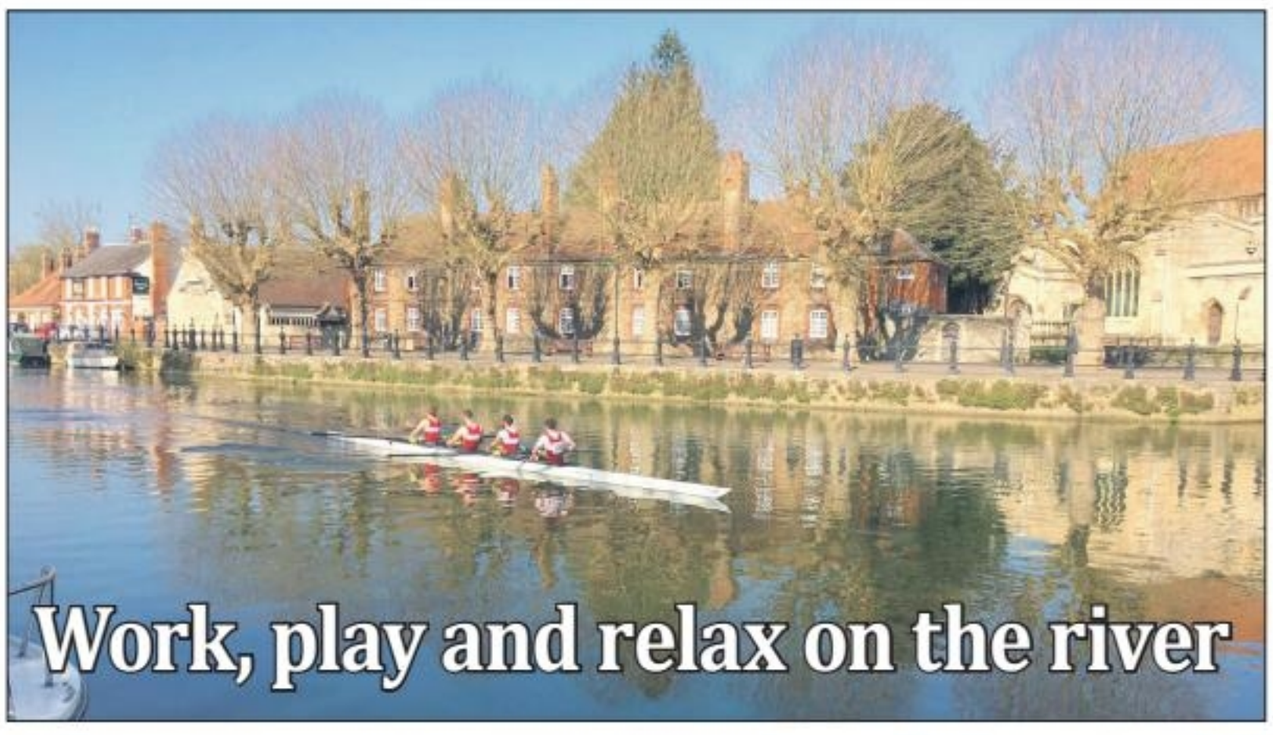
"We call on OCC to take all possible action as a matter of urgency to help ensure the survival of these essential services."

In a statement, OCC told the Guardian: "Oxfordshire County Council is aware of the situation and is working hard to address the issues that have held up this case."

Part of the correction process requires the town council to evidence that the buildings were already in place in 1967.

The council has some evidence available but is calling on the public to strengthen its case by providing photographic evidence or written statements of their own.

Contact Cllr Upcraft, also the chair of the Bull Croft Working Party, at cllr.lee.upcraft@wallingfordtowncouncil.gov.uk if you can help.



Work, play and relax on the river

HUNDREDS of rowers will descend on the River Thames next month as Abingdon's renowned annual boat race returns for the 35th time.

Around 360 boats from across the UK will make waves as they race against the clock in one of the best events on the River Thames – the Abingdon Spring Head of the River Rowing Festival.

Last year drew record crowds from the town on a beautiful hot spring day, congregating on Abingdon's Rye Farm Meadow and along the race course, leading past the marina towards Culham weir.

And if the rowing is not enough for you, there will also be a BBQ, beer tent, tea and cakes and Morris dancing to cater for all tastes.

The event supports the town's rowing club, which runs the event. Any proceeds raised from the event are re-invested into the club.

An Abingdon Rowing Club spokesperson said: "This is a great opportunity to support and invest in one of Abingdon's largest business and leisure assets – the River Thames.

"The Thames is Abingdon's hidden jewel, a lively hub of residential, leisure, recreational and sporting investments.

"The 'river' community is where residents and visitors like to meet to work, play and relax."

The festival, which will take place at Rye Farm Meadow from 9.30am on Sunday, April 8, is free to watch.

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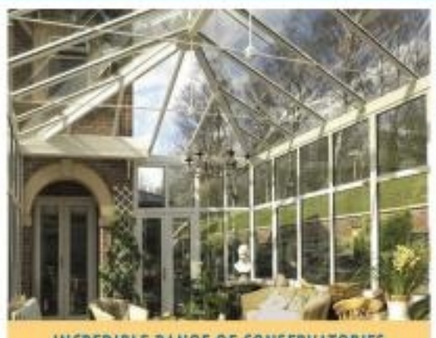
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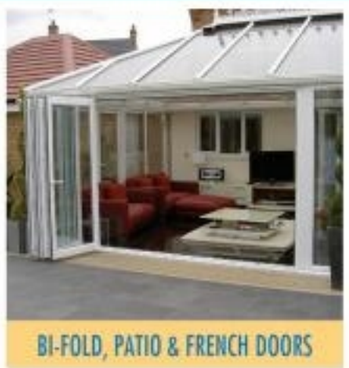
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News

Ponies are the mane attraction

OXFORD entertained some special visitors last week as the sound of clip-clopping hooves could be heard on the city's cobbled streets.

Two white ponies, named Vera and Slim, were paraded around the Radcliffe Camera, through the Bodleian libraries and up and down Cornmarket Street as onlookers fed treats to the impeccably behaved horses.

Oxford University Equestrian Club braved adverse weather forecasts and A34 traffic to bring the ponies into Oxford to raise the profile of the club to potential sponsors ahead of the team's US tour.

OUEC will take part in show jumping and dressage events against East Coast American universities from September in the battle for the Glenavadra Cup.

A spokesperson for the club said: "The club is trying to raise as much of the total cost of the tour as possible to ensure that it is as accessible as possible to members of the tour squad.

"For most of whom, it will be their only opportunity to compete internationally.

"We're incredibly fortunate to have had the help of Hall Place Equestrian Centre in both allowing and facilitating our bringing Slim and Vera to Oxford."

OUEC runs the equestrian squad that competes in the BUCS leagues and against Cambridge in the annual Varsity match.

Faringdon Junior School pupils, pictured with their teacher Stefania Caddick-Adams, mayor Dr Mike Wise and town crier Sjoerd Vogt. Picture: *Bethia Thomas*

Celebrating 800 years of town history

THESE Faringdon schoolchildren enjoyed a birthday party like no other as they celebrated their town's 800th birthday.

The Faringdon Junior School pupils posed for pictures with teacher Stefania Caddick-Adams, mayor Dr Mike Wise and town crier Sjoerd Vogt at a market party last week.

The special edition farmers market, which featured extra stalls and live entertainment, kicked off a year of celebrations marking exactly eight centuries since King John granted Faringdon its market charter in the year 1218.

Faringdon Town Council business co-ordinator Karen Roberts said: "The 800th anniversary market created a great atmosphere in the town of Faringdon and we look forward to our medieval market on Saturday."

Faringdon was granted a weekly market in 1218, and was initially called Chipping Faringdon. The weekly market is still held today.

The town was granted Fairtrade Town status in 2004, becoming the first town of its kind in South East England.

The medieval-themed market will be held in the Market Square, and the town council has promised 'a wide variety of stalls and entertainment'.

Visit tinyurl.com/yalkfklc for more information.

Vera and Slim posted for photos with their adoring public as they toured the city last week

Minister on a mission to make a nation of cyclists

By George Welch

CYCLING minister Jesse Norman peddled into Oxfordshire last week to find out more about what needs to be done to encourage more people to take to two wheels.

The MP's first port of call was Oxpens in Oxford to look over plans for a new 'riverside' cycle route, which aims to improve off-road pedestrian and cycle links between residential areas and Oxford city centre.

That was before heading off to Milton Park in south Oxfordshire to try out the recently completed Backhill Tunnel, a redeveloped formerly derelict tunnel which links Milton Park and the adjacent A4130 in west Didcot.

He also heard about the county council's cycling design standards, a guide for developers, planners and engineers.

Mr Norman, who represents Hereford, used Friday's visit to the county to set out government plans encouraging people to walk and cycle more as part of a push to leave cars behind for shorter journeys.

A total of £100,000 of seed funding has been awarded to three innovative cycling safety projects across the country which aim to tackle a range of issues, including reducing the cost of e-bike batteries through recycling used laptop batteries.

Jesse Norman with county councillor Liam Walker at Backhill Tunnel, Milton Park

The pledge follows the recent £7million promise to improve cycle safety and a 'call for evidence', asking for views on everything from improved infrastructure to education for all road users.

Mr Norman said: "We need to become a nation of cyclists, and this government wants to make cycling the natural choice of transport for people of all ages and backgrounds.

"The call for evidence will support an open, comprehensive and thorough review across government to encourage active travel and improve safety for all road users.

"We are determined to make cycling safer and easier across the country, and we are continuing to invest."

The announcement comes as an independent report, suggesting there is a 'strong' case for a new offence to be introduced to tackle dangerous cycling, was published by the Department for Transport.

If this were to be introduced, it would bring cycling in line with serious driving offences.

Tributes paid to 'extraordinary man' Hawking

WORLD renowned Oxford-born physicist Stephen Hawking who died at the age of 76 has been remembered as one of the 'world's greatest minds'.

He died peacefully at his home in Cambridge in the early hours of yesterday (Wednesday) morning, his family confirmed.

In a statement, his children Lucy, Robert and Tim described him as "a great scientist and an extraordinary man whose work and legacy will live on for many years".

Tributes to the scientist, famed for his work with black holes and relativity, have flooded in.

Oxford University's student account on Twitter described him as one of the 'world's greatest minds'.

Actor Eddie Redmayne, who portrayed Prof Hawking in The Theory of Everything, said: "We have lost a truly beautiful mind, an astonishing scientist and the funniest man I have ever had the pleasure to meet."

Prof Hawking, who read natural science at Oxford in 1959, was given only a few years to live after being diagnosed in 1963 with a rare form of motor neurone disease at the age of 22.

The illness left him in a wheelchair and largely unable to speak except through a voice synthesiser.

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News

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Join the Merry Men at Thames Con

THAMES Con will reunite stars of BAFTA winning comedy Maid Marian and her Merry Men for the first time since the children's BBC phenomenon ended in 1994.

The show's star and creator, Sir Tony Robinson, will appear alongside Kate Lonergan, Adam Morris, Mike Edwards and David Lloyd.

Game of Thrones actor Milton Yerolemou and Blue Peter presenter Lindsey Russell will also appear at the event at the Abingdon campus of Abingdon and Witney College on April 28.

For tickets and more information go to http://bit.ly/2Hrr8ST

Building at Balliol

ONE of Oxford University's oldest colleges has appointed contractors to build new student accommodation.

Balliol College plans to invest £40million in nine new buildings at the corner of Jowett Walk and St Cross Road in Oxford.

They would provide 220 rooms for students, which Balliol hopes will open in summer 2020.

Master of Balliol, Professor Sir Drummond Bone, said the project "will transform our accommodation offering".

BAM Construction will build the first phase of Master's Field.

Anti-bullying charter wins support from school pupils

By George Welch

THE first schools have signed up to an 'anti-bullying' charter in an attempt to strengthen the response to bullying across the county.

The charter contains 10 pledges on tackling bullying to ensure the voices of children and families are always heard and acted upon.

It was launched at Chipping Norton School and the secondary school, along with neighbouring primary schools St Mary's and Holy Trinity, are the first to sign up to the charter.

Others are now being encouraged to join them and help send a strong message that bullying will not be tolerated in Oxfordshire.

Councillor Hilary Hibbert-Biles, Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet member for education and public health, helped launch the pledge and said the majority of schools support their pupils well.

She said: "By formally signing up to a county-wide set of values, schools can focus on ensuring those values are embedded in every aspect of school life.

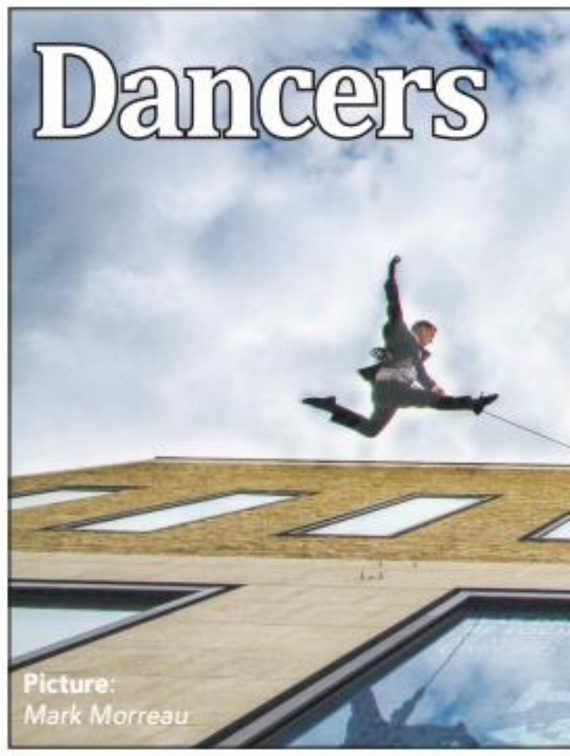
"It also sends out a very clear message to their pupils and families that bullying will not be allowed to go unchallenged."

Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet member for education and public health Hilary Hibbert-Biles, second right, presents the anti-bullying charter to Chipping Norton School headteacher Simon Duffy, centre, and St Mary's Primary School headteacher Yvonne Stallwood-Barnes, left, alongside pupils from both schools

Seven-year-old Darcy Portman, of St Mary's Primary School, said: "Bullying should stop because we don't want everyone getting hurt. We don't want our schools to be full of bullying because bullying is an unkind thing to do."

Schools can sign up to the charter by emailing anti-bullying@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Dancers



Picture: Mark Morreau

By Owen Hughes

AN Oxford dance group dropped in on shoppers at the Westgate Centre at the weekend to perform a synchronised routine while suspended from the side of the building.

Gravity & Levity, one of the UK's leading aerial dance companies, upended the dance floor to view the city from a whole new perspective.

The wall crawlers performed an acrobatic vertical dance routine up, down and across the front of the Westgate Oxford façade while dangling from ropes on Saturday and Sunday.

Stunned shoppers watched in wonder as the award-winning aerial

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Picture: Antony Marsh

dance company performed the death-defying stunt.

Each performance lasted between 12 and 15 minutes while spectators were kept at a safe distance.

Choreographer and founder of Gravity & Levity Lindsey Butcher said: "We met the most lovely people whilst rehearsing and performing on the striking Westgate facade; had some wonderful conversations with people of all ages, got asked lots of questions and felt truly appreciated.

"We'd like to thank everyone who came along to watch, supported us and especially to those who stayed around afterwards to say hi.

"What a treat that was, exciting, exhilarating and quite an abdominal work out to boot!

"Thank you Oxford for being so warm and welcoming."

The extraordinary show was part of Oxford's annual spring dance festival.

More than 14 dance companies took part in the 2018 Dancin' Oxford festival, which began on March 2 and culminated with Sunday's high-wire act.

Oxford venues such as the New Theatre, Old Fire Station and Oxford Playhouse hosted various performances, as well as Pegasus, The North Wall Arts Centre and Merton College.

Outside the city, performances took place at The Mill Arts Centre in Banbury and the Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot.

Now its 12th year, Oxford City Council and Arts Council England fund the festival whose programme was packed with professional companies, taster sessions and daring performances.

Claire Thompson, Oxford City Council dance officer, said: "Each festival has its strengths and this spring one is no different. I am delighted that we have now engaged with venues all over the county with a wide variety of performances."

The Dancin' Oxford festival has grown from one small spring event to three, including a summer outdoor festival and a family dance week in October.

Spiritual abuse vicar banned

AN Abingdon vicar who was convicted of spiritual abuse of a teenage boy has been banned from the ministry for two years.

Reverend Timothy Davis of Christ Church, Abingdon, was convicted of spiritual abuse of a 15-year-old boy during two-hour prayer sessions in the boy's bedroom.

Mr Davis lived with the family, who were members of his congregation, for six months in 2013.

The Reverend is understood to be the first priest to have been convicted of spiritual abuse by the Bishop's Disciplinary Tribunal.

Mr Davis, who is in his 50s, became a mentor to the boy in 2011.

In January, the tribunal ruled there was no sexual touching, but the vicar and the teenager did lay hands on each other's head, shoulders, chest and back during the sessions.

However, in its judgement, the tribunal said the teenager was "scared" by what the vicar was doing to him.

It said the vicar's "domination" of the boy amounted to "misconduct which was unbecoming and inappropriate" and caused the boy to be "deprived of his freedom of choice".

Mr Davis was suspended from his position in 2016 and was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder in September that year.

Uni apologises for cleaner picture

THE University of Oxford has apologised after a photo of a female cleaner wiping graffiti celebrating International Women's Day from the steps of one of its buildings was widely shared on Twitter.

Dr Sophie Smith, an associate Professor of Political Theory at the University, posted the picture on the popular social media platform during International Women's Day.

On Twitter, Sophie said: "Oxford security makes a woman cleaner scrub out 'Happy International Women's Day' on the Clarendon steps. What an image for #IWD, @UniofOxford."

The photo shows a woman cleaner, taking a mop and bucket to the graffiti on the lower steps of the entrance to the Clarendon Building while four male security staff stand above her.

More than 24,000 people have retweeted the image since it was posted at 11.51am on Thursday.

Oxford University said in its response on Twitter: "We are deeply sorry for this and for offence caused.

"International Women's Day is hugely important to Oxford.

"This should not have happened."

The professor asked that the cleaner also "receives a heartfelt apology, a warm cup of tea, the rest of the day off" in addition to "good enough pay to live in this city".

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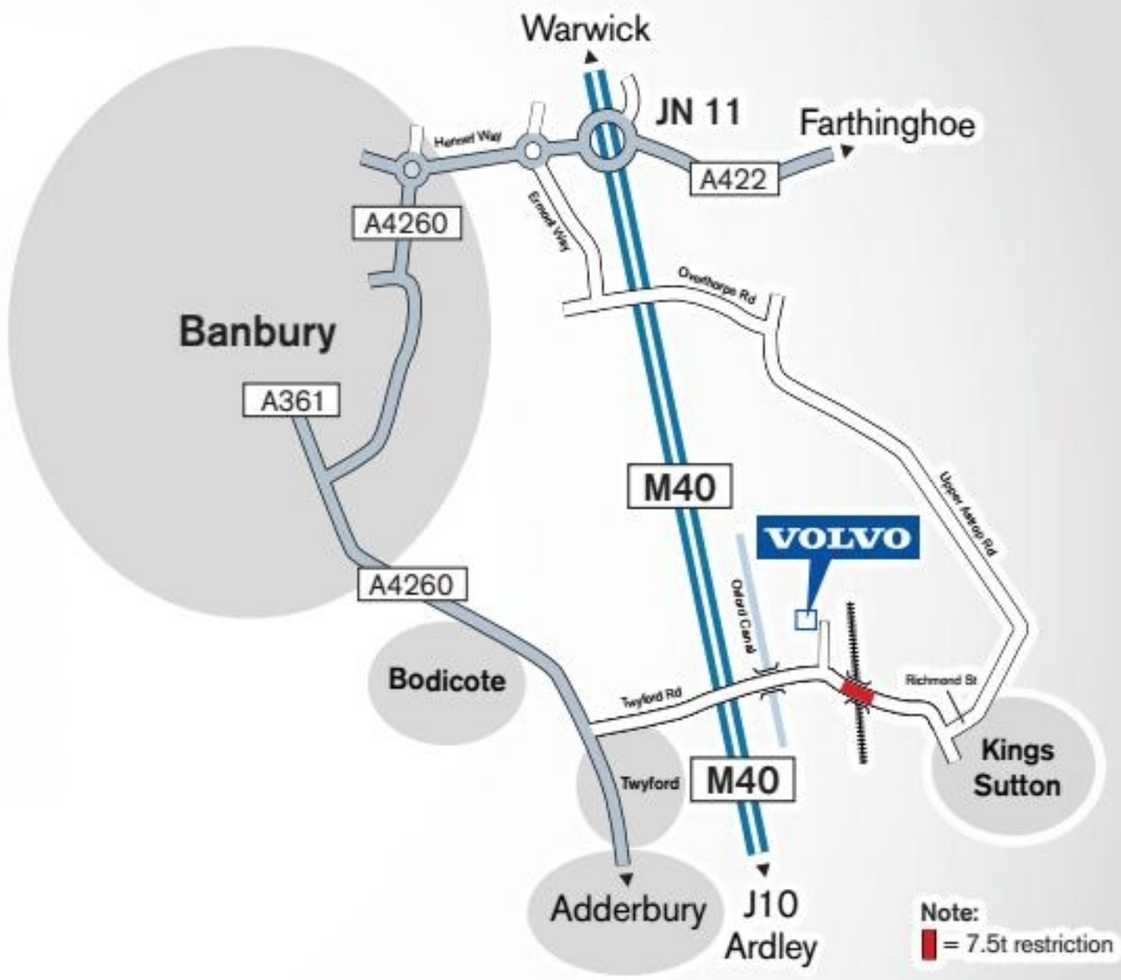

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News

Major General (Ret'd) David Shouesmith presented the sword to Lance Corporal Andrew Cassidy

Regiment honoured with sword of peace

By George Welch

AN ARMY regiment that responded to the Didcot Power Station collapse and the Manchester Arena bombing were honoured with a top military accolade.

The Firmin Sword of Peace, which commends military units for developing strong links within communities, was awarded to Didcot-based 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment at Blenheim Palace last week.

Amidst the splendour of the Woodstock World Heritage Site, 150 troops from each of the five squadrons from across the UK stood proudly on parade during the presentation ceremony.

The sword was handed over by Paul Spafford, the chief operating officer at sword makers Firmin, to Major General (Ret'd) David Shouesmith who presented the illustrious sword to Lance Corporal Andrew Cassidy from the Catterick-based 521 Squadron.

He received the blade on behalf of the whole Regiment in recognition of the unit's actions in 2016.

The award reflects in particular the Regiment's specialist search operations during the Didcot Power Station tragedy – Operation BRIDLED – as four men were killed when one of the boilerhouses partially collapsed in February 2016.

They also disposed of hazardous chemicals from school laboratories nationwide.

All of that is on top of their routine 'shouts' to make Second World War bombs safe. In total, they had 2,854 call outs in 2016.

The Regiment's Commanding Officer, Lt Col Brian Howard, said: "Each operation had a huge impact on the local community, be it in Didcot or Bath or in secondary schools nationwide.

"The Regiment's actions brought relief, hope, comfort and reassurance to the affected communities, and allowed people to carry on with their lives."

When they were not on duty, members of the Regiment raised around £30,000 for various charities across the country.

Speaking of the part he played in receiving the sword on behalf of his Regiment, LCpl Cassidy, who was singled out as a key member, said: "It was a real honour and I'm very proud, everything that was said about me as an individual applies to the rest of the Regiment.

"I only found out 48 hours beforehand that I had been chosen so it was a huge surprise."

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News

InBrief

Diabetes increases

THE number of people diagnosed with diabetes in Oxfordshire has reached an all-time high.

According to Diabetes UK, the number diagnosed with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes across the county has increased by 1,544 since this time last year – from 27,925 to 29,469, nearly five per cent of residents.

Visit diabetes.org.uk/diabetes-statistics for more information.

More animal rescues

FROM badgers to budgies and dogs to ducklings, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service is increasingly being called out to rescue animals.

Latest figures show the money spent on animal rescues has almost doubled in the past two years to more than £14,600.

A dedicated team in Kidlington uses specialist equipment for animal call-outs.

Young choir sings

THE National Youth Training Choir will wow audiences on Sunday, April 8 with performances that include star singer and 16-year-old Cherwell School pupil Emily Coatsworth.

Following a free 'pop-up performance' at Westgate Shopping Centre at midday, the 140-voice choir will perform at Oxford Town Hall at 6.30pm.

Vist tinyurl.com/y6w8mlff for evening tickets.

Exploding the secrets behind 16th century cannonballs

From left, Dr Sofia Diaz-Moreno, I20 Beamline principal scientist; Dr Eleanor Schofield, head of conservation at the Mary Rose Trust and Hayley Simon, PhD student and below, the instrument used to gauge the corrosion

By Owen Hughes

A CUTTING edge science experiment to 'destructively sample' Henry VIII's cannonballs in Oxfordshire will reveal the secrets to preserving the 16th century artefacts for future generations.

Remains of the Tudor monarch's 500-year-old warship The Mary Rose were dredged from the ocean's depths in 1982 along with 1,200 iron cannonballs.

A ground-breaking project between conservationists from The Mary Rose, University College London and Diamond Light Source, located at the Harwell and Innovation Campus, will sacrifice one per cent of the projectiles to save the rest.

The Mary Rose's head of conservation, Dr Eleanor Schofield, said: "We have taken just 12 of the cannonballs to investigate different methods of conservation through synchrotron science."

At the UK synchrotron facility, electrons are sped up to near light speed, producing a light 10billion times brighter than the sun.

Intense beams of X-ray, infrared and ultraviolent light are used to measure the level of corrosion from the chlorine and sulphur in slithers cut from the cannonballs.

PhD student Hayley Simon said: "We use a beam size of 0.4mm which allows us to scan multiple positions on the surface of the samples to see how they're affected."

The shots were put into a solution similar to baking soda as soon as they were excavated 30 years ago to remove chlorine.

Cracks appeared in the historically significant artefacts shortly after going on display at the Heritage Lottery funded museum in 2013.

Dr Schofield added: "When the shots are in the sea environment and they're buried, it's fine, but when you start to excavate them and they're exposed to air is when you start to get problems.

"Within months of opening we noticed there were problems and took them all off display and it was pretty much straight after that I started talking to UCL and Diamond."

She said it was an "alarmingly straightforward" process and that "it's been a dream" to work on the "lovely research project".

A fraction of Diamond's £60m operating costs are used to support and enable research in virtually all fields of science.

Around 70 experiments are conducted using the beamlines every six months.

Principal scientist Dr Sofia Diaz-Moreno said regardless of the financial cost, "there's also a moral duty" to preserve the artefacts for future generations.

"It's money well spent in my opinion," she said.

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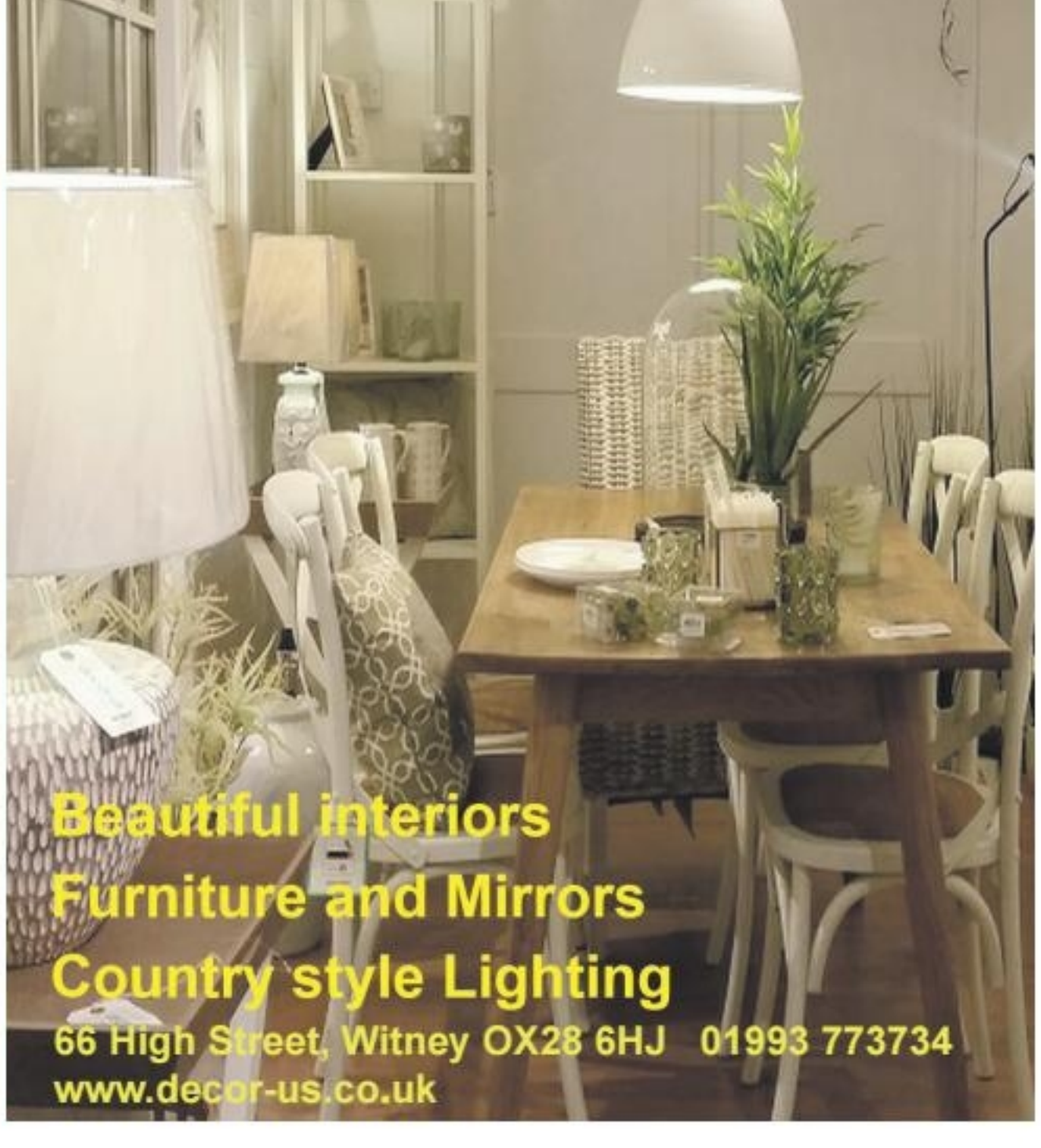
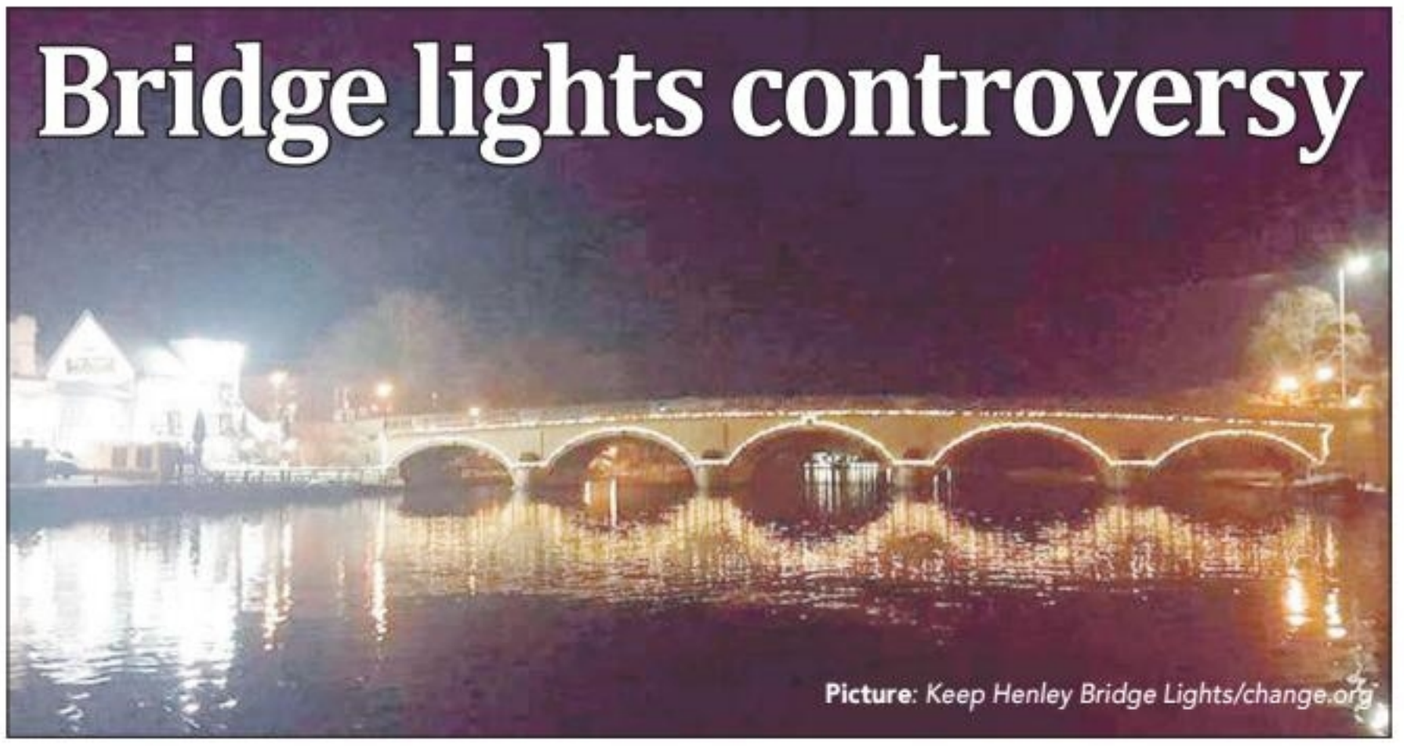


Bridge lights controversy



Picture: *Keep Henley Bridge Lights/change.org*

By George Welch

A MAN who took it upon himself to light up a bridge in Henley wants to make the illuminations permanent.

Clive Hemsley used his own money to pay for the temporary decorations to light up both sides of Henley-on-Thames bridge last month.

A petition has since been launched to show Oxfordshire County Council the level of support for the lights, in the hope they will decide to keep them.

However, Mr Hemsley did not seek permission from OCC, which is responsible for the listed bridge and has said the lights must be removed.

The Hart Street resident said he has received scores of messages of support from people wanting the lights to remain permanently, including one from the mayor.

"We have so many important events in Henley, not least of which is the Leander Club's 200th anniversary this year, which are worth celebrating," he said.

"It makes perfect sense, both from a tourist's and a local's point of view.

"We feature other ancient buildings within Henley, including St Mary's Church, with spotlights and street lights.

"It was a no-brainer for me to light up our beautiful ham stone bridge."

Henley resident Mary Sinclair gave a big thumbs up to the idea.

She said: "These lights enhance our beautiful town even more. How fantastic that someone went to the effort to do this. Thank you."

A county council spokesman said: "We have not given permission for this to be done and installation must stop now. We will be seeking to have the lights removed under our supervision shortly.

"Henley Bridge is a listed structure and clearly any permanent lighting installation would require not only our permission but also listed building consent from the district council."

Support quickly gathered pace and, as we went to press, 1,820 people had signed the petition which can be signed at tinyurl.com/ybvankdb

Badger shooting plan condemned as 'no TB found'

THE Wildlife Trust "will not allow" badgers to be shot on its land in the county after the government opened a consultation last week to extend the cull to Oxfordshire.

The government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is considering applications for shooting badgers in Oxfordshire and Berkshire to combat the spread of bovine TB.

However, research conducted by the Wildlife Trust suggests badgers in the area do not have TB.

Mammal project officer Julia Lofthouse said: "We do not believe the shooting of badgers is ever an appropriate way of controlling bovine TB in cattle.

"For the last two years we have collected badgers killed on the roads of Oxfordshire and Berkshire and sent them to the University of Surrey to be tested for bovine TB. None of the dead badgers collected in either county were infected with TB.

"These findings show there is no justification for a cull."

A statement from Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust said if the badger cull is extended to the area, "BBOWT will not allow it to take place on our land".

DEFRA recently told the Trust it is awarding £66,000 to extend its badger vaccination research over the next four years.

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From left, Abingdon & Witney College deputy principal Jacqui Canton, head of work based learning Steve Kirk, and principal Di Batchelor

College rewarded for apprentice work

AN Oxfordshire college has been labelled as one of the best in the south for apprenticeships after scooping a regional award.

Abingdon & Witney College was awarded the Apprenticeship Provider of the Year honour at the inaugural Annual Apprenticeship Awards last Monday.

It was the perfect way to kick off last week's national apprenticeship week.

Principal Di Batchelor said: "We can't overstate the value of this kind of award and the recognition it brings to the college as a premier provider of high quality apprenticeships.

"The team work tirelessly to ensure our apprentices and their employers are a good match, that businesses are getting the most from their apprenticeship levy, and continue to promote apprenticeship opportunities across Oxfordshire."

The college was also judged as 'outstanding' for apprenticeships in last year's Ofsted report.

The award win automatically puts the college in contention for the National Apprenticeship Provider of the Year award, to be announced at the fourth annual apprenticeship conference in Birmingham next week.

Backing for phone campaign

OXFORDSHIRE County Council has thrown its support behind a national campaign to reduce mobile phone use by drivers.

It is a year since the government introduced tougher laws on using a phone at the wheel.

Those caught can be hit with six penalty points and a £200 fine, with those to pass their driving test in the last two years also losing their licence.

Yet, according to a recent RAC report, 23 per cent of drivers admitted using a handheld mobile at the wheel to make or take a call in the past 12 months. Twelve per cent admitted checking texts, email or social media.

Judith Heathcoat, cabinet member for community safety, said: "Driving, especially with the volume of traffic and speed of traffic on our roads requires full concentration and full physical contact – that's both hands for driving safely."

InBrief

Dentist experiences

HEALTHWATCH Oxfordshire, the county's independent health and social care watchdog, has launched a survey into people's experiences of NHS dental services.

The organisation wants to hear about people's experiences, including whether they have found it hard to find an NHS dentist and what they think about the quality of care they receive.

Views on accessibility, visit frequency and cost are also sought.

Visit tinyurl.com/ycx8a2up to complete the survey anonymously.

Lambs springing up

GET ready to say "aaaah!" as little lambs spring up across the county.

Spring is finally here and lambing season is set to begin.

One of the bigger events starts this weekend at the Earth Trust Farm in Little Wittenham and runs next weekend too. Last year it attracted more than 8,500 visitors.

Visit tinyurl.com/6ylla3e for more information and visit tinyurl.com/yd8ozndk for alternative lambing sessions in Oxfordshire.

Photos in the frame

OXFORD'S historic photo society will return to the North Wall Arts Centre in Summertown for the third time for its free annual exhibition from March 27 to April 12.

Chairman Ivor Porter said: "It is fascinating to see the diverse range of subjects that inspire our members when we exhibit."

Displays from amateur and professional photographers can be viewed between 10am and 4pm weekdays or 12pm and 4pm on Saturdays.

'We need to listen to residents on health'

Health bosses admit need to work together

By George Welch

HEALTH chiefs have admitted they must 'learn from experience' following the heavily criticised first phase of a county-wide service overhaul.

Bosses conceded they must work in a 'very different way' on future changes after phase one of the Oxfordshire Transformation Plan introduced a raft of changes.

The results from a major consultation, published last summer, led to bed closures across the county and the permanent downgrading of maternity services at Banbury's Horton General Hospital.

A joint statement from system leaders across the NHS in Oxfordshire said: "The NHS has reflected on the experience of running phase one of the Oxfordshire Transformation Programme.

"We understand that we need to learn from the experience and approach the improvement of local services in a very different manner."

Health experts also talked about 'breaking down organisational barriers' to adopt a 'more integrated approach' following criticism from the health regulator, the Care Quality Commission.

Hospital beds across the county were closed as a result of the first phase changes

Much improved communication with residents has been promised for the next phase as part of an 'over-arching' strategy to encompass all services and providers.

The statement added: "We understand that the best service improvements are those where patients, the wider public and key stakeholders work together to co-design services.

"We need to break down organisational barriers and work in a much more integrated way to improve care for residents and patients.

"We therefore recognise the need to progress with the next phase in a very different way.

"We need to listen to local people and understand better at local level how to work in a more integrated way to improve care for residents and patients in Oxfordshire."

More details will be revealed in due course.

Campaign group Oxfordshire Keep Our NHS Public has once again called for a single, full consultation instead of the current two-phase format.

A spokesperson said: "We have always said that having two consultations is wrong.

"Splitting the Horton Hospital maternity unit downgrade from changes to the paediatric and A&E wards enables the authorities to conceal their strategy of an overall downgrade of the Horton. Salami-style cuts are still cuts."

Work on phase two is ongoing.

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InBrief

Council experience

YOUNGSTERS got a taste of what it is like to work at Oxford City Council as they took charge for the day.

Thirteen aspiring politicians from Cheney School in Oxford 'took over' Oxford Town Hall to learn first-hand about how the city council functions.

They met councillors Marie Tidball, Colin Cook, Andrew Gant, Liz Wade, Susanna Pressel and Craig Simmons who were on hand to answer questions.

The teenagers took part in "speed-dating" sessions with officers and councillors to discuss issues such as housing, the local plan and the environment.

After enjoying debates on social housing, the Oxford living wage and the environment, they also discussed the centenary of women's suffrage and why registering to vote – and voting – is so important.

Weekend work woes

PARENTS are losing confidence in the benefits of weekend jobs for youngsters, according to research by Oxford Home Schooling.

Less than a third of parents aged between 25 and 34 believe weekend jobs are beneficial to children, with 35 per cent of teens holding down part-time work.

OHS principal Dr Nick Smith said: "Weekend jobs are undoubtedly helpful in not only getting a job after school, but for social skills and workplace etiquette."

Charity of the year 2018 – Helen & Douglas House

Parents air their heartbreak

By George Welch

A COUPLE whose daughter died from a brain tumour took to the airways last week to tell their heartbreaking story.

Kathryn, 41, and Lester Whitby, 43, were left devastated when two-year-old Imogen passed away in January last year – her twin, Angel, was stillborn in 2014.

The Banbury couple spoke about Imogen and her fight as part of Helen & Douglas House's Radiothon, a three-day radio broadcast fundraising event.

Imogen died at the Churchill Hospital-based hospice in January last year. She bravely battled a brain tumour, never failing to smile as she endured chemotherapy, only for the cancer to return.

"Imogen was a whirlwind of fun who filled the house with playfulness and laughter," her mum said, adding "she was an utter joy".

In August 2016, Immy became unwell and wobbly on her feet. A CT scan revealed she had a brain tumour.

"I heard a voice screaming 'No! No! No! You've got it wrong' and realised it was me," Kathryn said.

"I asked the doctor if she was going to die. He said he didn't know, but his eyes said yes. I was her mum – used to making her feel better, but I felt utterly powerless."

Immy had surgery in September 2016 and the tumour disappeared following subsequent intensive chemotherapy.

But the tot fell unwell over Christmas and, although the tumour had not returned, she had cancer dotted all over her brain and part of her spinal cord. She died less than a month after Christmas 2016.

When they were told Immy had days to live the family moved to Helen & Douglas House.

"I held Immy in my arms and whispered, 'it's time to go, baby girl'. Then she died in my arms. It was so peaceful and Immy left this world as she'd come into it – with our love."

The heartbreaking loss was particularly cruel as, after six years of IVF, Imogen's twin sister, Angel, passed away at 31 weeks in November 2014.

"No parent should have to see two tiny white coffins in their life time," Kathryn added.

Oxfordshire Guardian & THE OXFORD PAPER Supporting Helen & Douglas House hospice care for children and young adults

Moved by Imogen and other poorly children's touching stories, the third edition of Radiothon raised £69,000, beating the £65,000 achieved last year.

An anonymous donor pledged a further £100,000 so the charity is asking for supporters to match this by 7pm tomorrow (Friday). Visit hdh.org.uk to make a donation.

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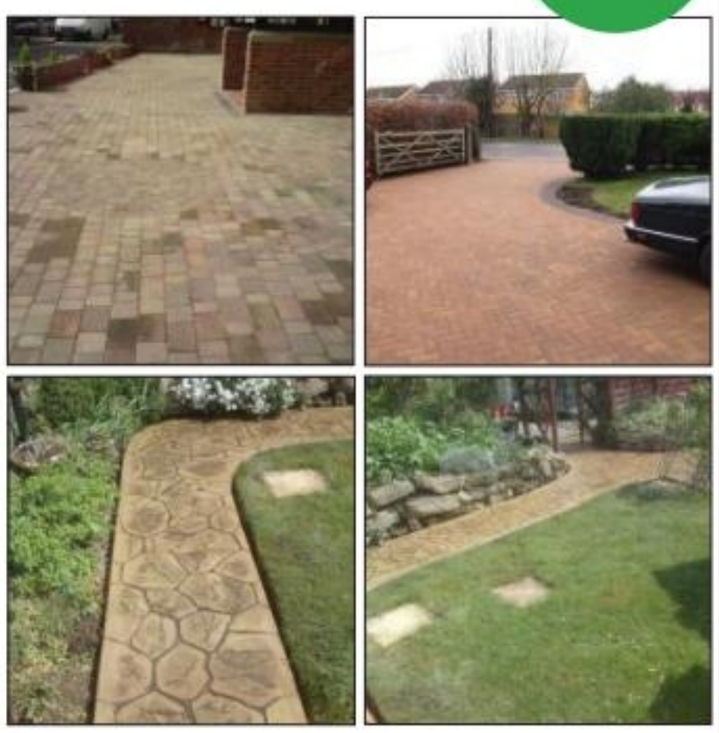

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Survey finds cancer impact on relationships

TWO thirds of people living with cancer believe diagnosis and subsequent treatment impacts negatively on relationships.

The research, carried out by cancer charity Maggie's Oxford, revealed several reasons why relationships were impacted, including the change of roles within the relationship.

In many cases, cancer brings people closer together through multiple hospital appointments and more quality time to make every moment count.

However, the profound changes cancer brings can drive a wedge between partners.

Feelings of stress, anger, fear, sorrow and worry were all cited as putting a strain on relationships.

Claire Marriott, centre head at Maggie's Oxford, said communication is key to overcome hurdles which relationships may encounter.

She added: "Diagnosis and treatment for cancer can lead to many physical changes, but also emotional changes too.

"These can affect personal relationships, including changes in mood, change in appearance, fatigue, lack of motivation, loss of libido, pain and discomfort.

"These symptoms can create additional pressure, which can lead to withdrawal and isolation, and you may feel like you are drifting apart from your partner."

The survey quizzed people who either had cancer themselves or lived with a partner with cancer.

Maggie's Oxford can be contacted on 01865 751882.

Waitrose staff with representatives from the organisations which benefitted from the cash raised

Store proves community really does matter

KIND-HEARTED customers and staff at the Faringdon branch of Waitrose helped raise thousands of pounds for good causes.

The Henry Blake Way store raised £6,000 for 30 different causes in the 12 months since opening in the town.

A diverse range of local and national charities benefited, including: 1st Faringdon Scouts, Pennyhooks Farm, First Responders, Maymessy, Faringdon Pre-School, African Children's Fund, Faringdon Day Centre, Faringdon Sensory Gardens, The RAF, The Samaritans and The NSPCC.

Representatives from all of those were at a recent coffee morning to celebrate cash raised through the supermarket's community fundraising scheme.

Store manager Craig Barnard said: "It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our anniversary and with guests from such worthy causes. We are very much part of the communities we work in and Waitrose Community Matters is our way of giving something back to the local area."

Each month Waitrose donates £500 to good causes in the community, divided between three organisations.

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EQUITY RELEASE

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The value of equity released in the UK last quarter hit record highs – could it help you in your retirement too?

Equity release continues to grow in popularity across the UK, with increasing numbers of over-55 UK homeowners turning to the wealth in their property as a means of providing a significant financial boost. The Equity Release Council have reported a 44pc annual increase in Q3 – amounting to £824 million in cash released – giving some indication of the staggering property wealth available in the UK[1].

If you are in the midst of planning your dream retirement, or you are simply searching for a convenient, secure way of boosting your later life income, then equity release with a lifetime mortgage could be the financial tool you need to reach your goals. With an array of products on the market, there's sure to be a plan that meets your requirements and ambitions.

A Roll-Up Lifetime Mortgage could also be used to help people in later life who still have an existing interest only mortgage with no repayment vehicle, raise a tax free cash lump sum that could pay off the capital. Featuring no required monthly repayments, you simply pay back the loan, plus accrued interest, through the sale of your property after both you and your partner pass away, or you both enter long-term care. You retain full ownership of your property for the duration of your plan, meaning that you could significantly boost your income without the need to downsize. What could you make of your golden years with a significant tax-free increase to your income?

What's more, the popularity of equity release is being driven by a wholesale commitment to customer satisfaction. That's why as well as guaranteeing you remain the sole owner of your property, plans from an Equity Release Council approved provider all feature a no negative equity guarantee: you will never owe more than the value of your home. Subject to the provider's criteria being fulfilled, most plans are also portable, meaning that you are free to move home in the future should you wish. A Lifetime Mortgage may reduce the value of your estate and effect your entitlement to means tested state benefits, but a personalised illustration is available to help you understand the features and risks of any plans you may consider.

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[1] Equity Release Council, 'New equity release plans rise by a third as lending passes £800 million in a single quarter for the first time', 30/10/17

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Out&About Competition

WIN a visit to an 'out of this world' golf experience

Closing date: Monday, April 3, 2018

ALIEN planetary landing sites, black holes and space ships have all appeared next to the Kassam Stadium as adventure golf goes interstellar.

There is now a pair of new space-themed 18-hole golf courses on the first floor of the Ozone Leisure Complex in Blackbird Leys.

Competitors have to negotiate their way around five zones, putting balls on a space dock, inside a spaceship, in outer space, on a Mars landing site and in an unknown, mysterious forest planet.

It was one of the first space-themed adventure golf courses in the whole of the UK when it opened in February 17th, says Alistair Burnett founder of the company Gravitee Golf.

He said: "People have done jungle, dinosaur and underwater themes but this is the first time anyone has tackled a 36-hole space adventure.

"It involves am amazing UV room, plus crashed space ships, aliens, rockets, a black hole and a Red Planet scape for the space adventurers...

"It's looking absolutely brilliant."

Mr Burnett said adventure golf is rising in popularity amongst people who want something different from the more-established leisure activities such as going to the pub, cinema or bowling alley.

"If you are looking for something fun to do there's not always a whole lot of choice. We wanted to offer something that's a bit different to the norm, whatever your age. We welcome families with small children and grandparents or groups of friends for a stag-do, or as part of a team-building exercise with work colleagues.

"We have party rooms and meeting spaces so people can come and play and then hang out afterwards."

Mr Burnett said 'adventure golf' differs from its seaside sibling 'mini golf' because it is themed and has a storyline, which adventurors can follow as they work their way around.

He added: "It really takes things to next level with so much more going on, it is really exciting."

For more information see www.graviteegolf.com

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Out & About

Sharing the passion of Mi Flamenco

Ester Tal brings her dance spectacular to Oxfordshire

Whole Lott of great acts lined up for Cornbury

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El amor del flamenco

By Samantha McGregor

FLAMENCO company Mi Flamenco will close its spring season in Oxfordshire this month with its show Incognito.

This production promises to bring all the spirit of "authentic, pulsating flamenco", intertwined with the unexpected.

Taking to the stage at Chipping Norton Theatre on Wednesday, March 28, this "exciting", moving flamenco dance show includes powerful song alongside virtuoso guitar and cello.

Mi Flamenco bring creative, authentic flamenco to audiences worldwide to help dispel the stereotypical image that flamenco often carries.

This company is produced and directed by husband and wife team Ester and Uri Tal.

Ester is the lead dancer and artistic director, while Uri is the lead guitarist and the company's musical director, and the pair are joined on stage by professional artists.

Ester Tal was born in the UK and danced from an early age. Flamenco came later.

Attracted by the Bohemian gypsy culture, the drama of flamenco and the spirited women who dance it, Ester moved to Madrid in 1993.

She met her guitarist husband, Uri Tal, and went on to study at the world-famous flamenco academy, Amor de Dios, for seven years.

The couple then moved to Jerez in Andalusia, to live, work and study flamenco with the flamenco gypsies for another seven years.

Now based in the UK, the pair are on a mission to "bring powerful, authentic flamenco to audiences here".

Ester said: "Flamenco has a spirit that is unique. I have always wanted to express myself through dance, but never really fitted into the English dance academy world.

"The technique and discipline of flamenco dance is tough, but the range of emotion and strength of flamenco dance and the individuality of expression it allows, is addictive.

"Mi Flamenco is my flamenco family and I feel proud and privileged to be a part of it."

Tickets £15.50, to book call 01608 642350 or go to chippingnortontheatre.com

On stage

Music revelation

The Nags Head in Abingdon is to host local band Mudslide Morris & The Revelators tomorrow at 10pm.

Mudslide Morris & the Revelators are a rock and blues three piece who play music likened to ZZ Top, Seasick Steve, John Lee Hooker, Rev Peyton, The Rolling Stones, and Led Zeppelin.

Feeling lucky?

Covers band Hustler are taking to the stage at O'Neil's in Oxford this Saturday at 10pm.

Hustler have been performing together for more than 15 years and play a range of songs spanning the last six decades including The Killers, Taylor Swift, U2, Lenny Kravitz, Rihanna, Bruno Mars and Bon Jovi.

Blue streak shoes

Blue Streak will be bringing rock and roll to the Woodstock Social Club in Woodstock this Saturday.

The group is comprised of four experienced musicians who will run through a range of covers from the 50s and 60s.

The band will kick off at 9pm and the entry fee is to be decided.

>> Is your band playing a gig? Am dram group taking to the stage? Tell us – email josh@taylornewspapers.co.uk

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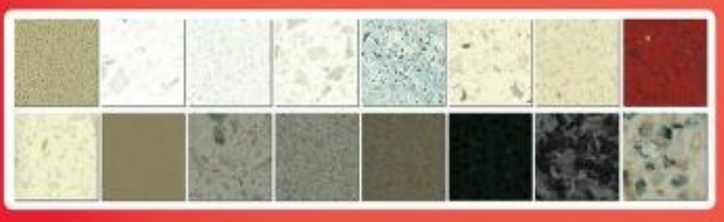

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Long live Cornbury festival

By Samantha McGregor

THE final acts lined up for this summer's Cornbury Festival have been announced.

Taking to the stage at Great Tew Park, Oxfordshire, from July 13 to 15, are UB40, Stereo MCs, Deacon Blue, Jimmy Cliff, Zucchero, Marc Cohn and Squeeze.

They join already announced Saturday night headliners Alanis Morissette and Pixie Lott.

UB40 will be topping the bill on Friday and long-time festival favourites Squeeze will be closing the party on Sunday night.

Organiser Hugh Phillimore said: "I'm so excited to return with such an amazing mix of brilliant artists.

"It's rather extraordinary to be back quite so soon and able to work with such an international cast.

"It's a real honour for a musical trainspotter like me."

Other talent includes Israeli starlet Irit, Memphis Soul five-piece Southern Avenue, Chicago soul sweetheart Mavis Staples, LA Soul Sista PP Arnold, Hawaiian son of Willie Nelson, Lukas Nelson & The Promise of the Real and all the way from Rick Island Illinois comes the remarkable Lissie.

Last year's festival was due to be the last, but after pressure from the public Mr Phillimore had a chance of heart.

From closer to home Cornbury favourite Amy Macdonald returns. There will be performances from Edinburgh's Nina Nesbitt, breaking blues girl Grainne Duffy and hotly tipped Catherine McGrath, who bring their songs from the Emerald Isle.

Tickets and full line up information available via www.cornburyfestival.com

Turning 40 and Donald Trump – what a year for comedian Angela

Following sell-out Fringe shows in 2014, 2015 and 2016, comic Angela Barnes has taken to the road and will be calling at The Mill in Banbury.

On November 9 2016, two momentous things happened to Angela, which have deeply affected her. Donald Trump won the US election and she turned 40.

Now, Angela is in no rush to join the ranks of middle aged, she's only just getting started. She didn't become a comedian until 33, only learnt to swim when she was 37, didn't fall in love until 38 and passed her driving test at 39.

Why the hurry? She is un-pensioned, un-married, un-mortgaged and a fully paid-up member of the Peter Pan generation.

People have stopped asking Barnes what she's going to be when she grows up, and instead want to know when she is going to settle down.

Before becoming a comedian, Angela worked in health and social care. In 2011, she won the BBC New Comedy Award and became a finalist at the 2011 Latitude Festival New Act of the Year competition.

Since then Angela has become a regular on BBC's The News Quiz, Newsjack and Mock The Week. She has also appeared on BBC Three's Russell Howard's Good News, Russell Kane's Whistle Stop Tour (BBC Radio 2), and BBC Radio 4's The Now Show.

Angela will be heading to The Mill on Thursday March 29 at 8pm. For more information or to book tickets, call the box office on 01295 279 002 or visit themillartscentre.co.uk.

Tickets are £15.

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Out & About

Get shirty with Don Broco

By Josh Cox

FOLLOWING the release of their top five album Technology and sold out run of UK dates, Don Broco have recently announced a new string of live shows for April which includes Oxford's O2 Academy.

Released to widespread critical acclaim in February, Technology became the band's second top 10 album and first to break the top five. After selling out both their Alexandra Palace gig last year to more than 10,000 fans and their current tour, the band have now announced they will return from their US tour to play extra venues.

The new album finds the band filtering their charismatic 80s pop-infected rock, through far-flung genres of metal, funk and electronics.

The result is a record featuring the band's most inventive, intelligent and infectious songs yet, with tracks inspired by their world tours, fake news and the effects of the Brexit campaign, while also addressing personal privacy and smart phone surveillance among songs inspired by relationships and their experiences in the music industry.

Elaborating on their hugely popular T-Shirt Song from the Technology album, lead vocalist Rob says: "It's one of the most emotional songs on the record, inspired by a close friend who had just been through a dark break-up.

"While writing the song it was also a difficult time for me emotionally, and one night I found myself in a club where the DJ was playing the Baywatch theme tune. Anyone who's been to a cheesy club night will know this is the moment everyone takes off their T-shirt and swings it round their head.

"I didn't really feel like it, but I joined in and as stupid as it sounds it really made me feel better. That was the start of the process by which I came to realise there was light at the end of the tunnel. This song is about going through hell and coming out the other side stronger for it."

Don Broco will play at the Oxford O2 Academy on Thursday April 26 at 7pm.

Full price tickets are £28.65. To book, head to academymusicgroup.com

Join black men on a poignant walk

Eclipse Theatre comes to Oxford in April with Black Men Walking, the first work to be staged as part of the company's ground-breaking Revolution Mix movement.

It's set to deliver the largest ever national programme of black British stories produced and performed in UK theatres.

An Eclipse Theatre and Royal Exchange Theatre co-production, Black Men Walking is at The North Wall in Summertown on April 23 and 24.

Inspired by a real-life black men's walking group in Sheffield, the piece has been conceived by Eclipse in collaboration with Leeds-based rapper, singer, producer and performer Testament. A rising star in the theatre landscape, Testament was most recently acclaimed for his one-man show about feminism, WOKE, which fused powerful first-person narrative with his signature beat-boxing and rapping.

It tells the compelling story of three middle-aged black men, Thomas, Matthew and Richard, who meet every month as part of a walking group to explore the dramatic landscape of the Peak District in Yorkshire. On this particular trip, the rest of the group cancels, and it soon feels like maybe they should have done too. The men find themselves forced to walk backwards through two thousand years of black history, embarking on a dangerous journey that invokes an element of the supernatural, an encounter with the spirits of their ancestors and an exploration of what it means to be both black and British today.

Tickets £16 concs £13. To book, call 01865 319450 or head to thenorthwall.com

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FENCING FEATURE ADVERTISEMENT

"I honestly believe that Colourfence is the best general purpose fencing product on the market today!"

Get ready for Winter

Now's the perfect time to replace your garden fence once and for all. Anna Ryder Richardson - Designer and Television Presenter - takes a closer look at Colourfence, the revolutionary low-maintenance system.

It's been ten years since I regularly graced TV screens helping transform people's living spaces with MDF and stripped floorboards. Recently it's been more "celebrity muck out" than "celebrity make-over" as I took up the challenge of owning my own Wildlife Zoo in Tenby. In this time I've learnt quiet a lot about fences and having researched the various options for my own benefit I thought I would share my knowledge with a wider audience.

The latest design processes mean there is now a tremendous array of fencing products for you to choose from, constructed from a variety of materials. Each has its own attributes, and ultimately it can often come down to a matter of personal preference. For me, there was one unique system that stood out as providing the best balance between price and functionality which eradicates fencing problems for good. Or for at least 25 years. Colourfence. For quality, value, longevity, aesthetic design, this fencing system ticks all the boxes. Fencing made for the 21st century that will transform the look of your garden which is supplied and fitted by a company whose customer service is as good as the product.

In my view, Colourfence is the 'Rolls Royce' of fencing – just without the exclusive price tag. What's more, it's guaranteed to stay in place in up to 130mph winds and is virtually maintenance free.

To find out how the experts from Colourfence might help you, I suggest you call **01865 582 171** and speak to their team.

Colourfence: The ultimate garden fence?

For many Colourfence is perhaps the ultimate choice. For the last 15 years it's been widely used across the UK and has steadily gained a reputation for its quality. By using the highest specification Colorbond steel in the fence structure itself, complemented by the highest level of customer service from accredited Franchisees, Colourfence is now regarded by many as the premier fencing solution in the market. Immune to the rot and resistant to the weather that so quickly effects wooden fences, Colourfence has none of the drawbacks of wood - plenty of additional benefits and what's more it's better value!

Call **01865 582 171** for more information

Gardeners' Questions

Q Wooden fence panels just don't seem to last - is there a storm resistant alternative?

A The Colourfence system has been tested under cyclonic conditions to withstand storms with wind gusts up to 130mph. Unlike your wooden fence - once professionally installed - Colourfence really will stay up!

Q No matter what I treat my wooden fence with - nothing seems to prevent it rotting or looking shabby for very long.

A Treating your fence is a thankless and expensive task. It's also a losing battle. Wood simply want's to rot. Colourfence offers a low-maintenance alternative where by an occasional wash down will keep it looking great for up to 25 years! GUARANTEED!†

THIS WEEK'S JOB

†Terms and conditions apply - full details available on request

Head into Winter - with COLOURFENCE

The only garden fence you will ever need!

Every gardener knows that it pays to plan ahead. If you are one of the thousands of people who watched helpless, as winter winds battered their garden, it will not be a surprise that garden fences are almost always the first casualty. Whether you have previously patched, painted or simply prayed to keep your fence going, there's no escaping the fact that timber fences will always fall victim to the weather. With Colourfence you can put your garden straight once and for all. Colourfence is scientfically tested and cyclonically rated to ensure when professionally installed, it can withstand wind gusts of up to 130mph. Once it's up – it stays up and is guaranteed to look good year after year. Safe, extra secure and hassle free – you will NEVER need to paint it, treat it or patch it. An occasional hose down will be all you need do to keep it in top condition for years to come. In fact the system is so durable that Colourfence will guarantee† their fencing to last at least 25 years. Available in a range of colours to suit any garden, with or without decorative trellis, the highly skilled installation team make short work of their dramatic transformations. Your sad old fence will be e_ ciently cleared and replaced, leaving you to get back to enjoying your rejuvenated garden. Pricing is just as straightforward and equally attractive. Starting costs are in line with inferior timber systems but with no annual treatments required, Colourfence saves you time and money each and every year. Their aim is your peace of mind. With a 25 year guarantee† Colourfence speaks for itself and promises a lifetime of hassle-free enjoyment.

For more information and to arrange a FREE no obligation site visit simply call one of their helpful team on 01865 582 171.

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†Terms and conditions apply - full details available on request

In detail:

- Virtually Maintenance-free.
- Save time & money - no treating required.
- Guaranteed† not to rot, warp or peel for up to 25 years.
- Costs in line with far inferior timber systems
  Variety of colours and sizes available
- Professionally installed by accredited Franchisees

Colourfence is built to last!

To reassure customers that our free no obligation site survey and quotation is not a precursor to high pressure sales techniques, all Colourfence Franchisees have signed up to the Colourfence No Pressure Promise. Call or visit our website for details.

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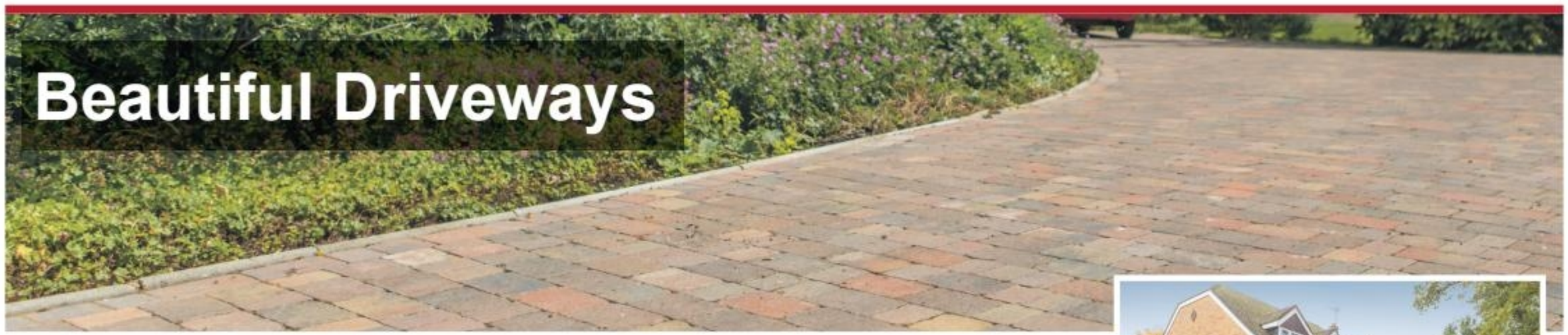

Enjoy a huge range of styles with our Block Paved driveways

Over the last 30 years block paving has become the most popular choice for driveways and paths, due to its durability and the huge range of styles and materials available.

We offer three kinds of block in two thicknesses and 14 colours, and the patterns we can create are almost infinite – so you have a great deal of choice! But don't worry – our designers will work closely with you to create the perfect drive for your home.

Why choose our driveway range? Permeable by nature and a wide variety of sizes, colours and shapes

At New Driveway Commercial we offer solutions for the following clients:

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- Project managers
- Church and cathedrals
- Insurance companies
- Building companies
- Business owners/ company directors
- Local authorities
- Councils
- Film companies

Why Composite Wood?

- Extremely Durable
- Contemporary design
- Low maintenance
- Never needs painting – ever
- Eco-friendly
- Portable – keep it if you move

Why Choose Us?

- 25 year Warranty
- Interest free credit
- Free laminate flooring
- Fast response
- No pushy salesmen

A home office, playroom, bar or place to relax and unwind; what will you use your Composite Wood Garden Room for?

Composite wood garden rooms feature highly insulated walls and a warm weatherproof roof for year-round protection from the elements. Designed as a self contained building, our Garden Rooms can be ordered with lighting, heating and electrics included and comes in 5 different sizes, with 4 different colours of Composite Wood to choose from.

puzzle drome

Your weekly puzzle challenge

CROSS CODE

2	16	2	8	9	20	7	2	■	12	6	9	2
6	■	6	■	13	■	4	■	1	■	15	■	6
19	20	7	20	14	26	2	■	13	14	8	20	5
11	■	15	■	20	■	5	■	20	■	7	■	2
■	17	2	13	6	7	■	7	6	2	2	8	7
24	■	■	■	7	10	2	2	4	■	8	■	10
15	8	23	2	■	12	8	2	■	4	11	21	2
13	■	8	■	7	18	13	5	21	■	■	■	22
8	2	15	7	2	7	■	7	20	6	2	18	■
4	■	5	■	6	■	6	■	9	■	8	■	12
20	5	14	2	22	■	13	18	3	18	13	8	22
26	■	26	■	7	■	25	■	2	■	7	■	22
2	18	2	8	■	3	20	6	22	6	2	7	7

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2 E	3	4	5 M	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 W	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Each number in our Cross Code grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. You have three letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares.

As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the alphabetical list of letters as you identify them.

MAGIC SQUARE

SHEEP TOO PERVERSE

Using all 16 letters of the phrase above, form four words each of four letters which will fit in the grid to form a magic square in which the words can be read both horizontally and vertically.

Quiz Challenge

1. Who directed the Death Wish series of films starring Charles Bronson?
2. Tashkent is the capital of which country?
3. Which letter is found in the bottom right position of the letters on a standard QWERTY keyboard?
4. What C is the name of the wedges placed against a vehicle or aircraft's wheels to stop accidental movement?
5. Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly are the two main female characters in which musical?
6. In the Bible, the Sermon on the Mount is recorded in which gospel?
7. Which song written by Sting has the lyric "Since you've gone I've been lost without a trace"?
8. The Azores is an autonomous region of which European country?
9. Warren Jackson was the first of three actors to play which Coronation Street character?
10. William the Conqueror and Richard the Lionheart both died in which country?

NONAGRAM

C	O	G
S	P	A
E	A	T

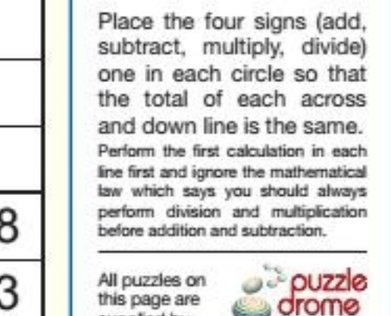
How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Nonagram? Each word must use the central letter, and each letter may be used only once. At least one word using all nine letters can be found.

Guidelines:
26 Good; 31 Very Good; 36 Excellent.

Any word found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary (Tenth Edition) is eligible with the following exceptions: proper nouns; plural nouns, pronouns and possessives; third person singular verbs; hyphenated words; contractions and abbreviations; vulgar slang words; variant spellings of the same word (where another variant is also eligible).

WORD PYRAMID

Spell out a 15-letter word or phrase by moving from one chamber to another within the pyramid. You may only enter each of the chambers once and may only proceed through openings in the walls. The first letter may appear in any chamber.

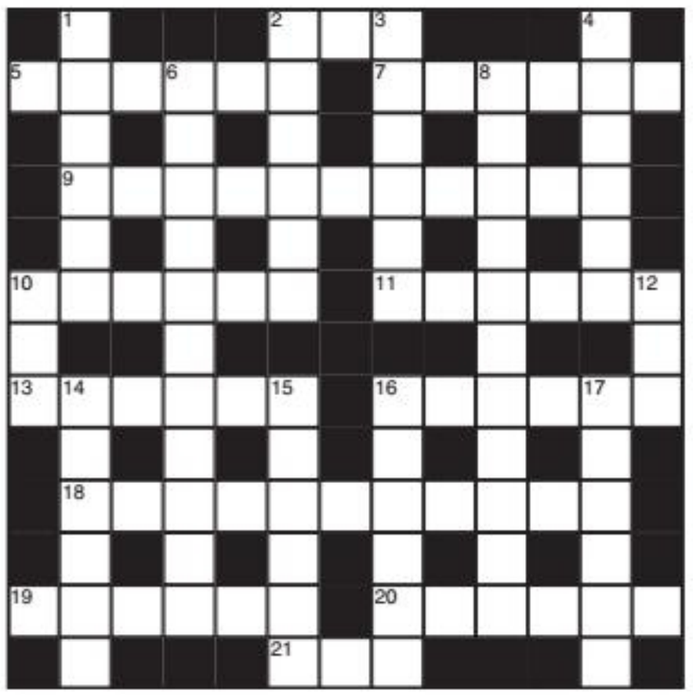


FIVE ALIVE

CA	MH	AO	SI	RS
HM	■	TC	■	IC
OA	DC	OT	UE	DR
RN	■	EL	■	AE
MG	YA	LT	OH	SP

Here are two miniature five-square crosswords using the same grid – but the letters have been mixed up. You have to work out which letters belong to which crossword.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



ACROSS

2. Cut-price lettuce (3)
5. Its lead decreases when it draws! (6)
7. Strangely muted, I was included in the boredom (6)
9. Enlarges new joint using tactical management and leadership (11)
10. Diffused the ray that's warm (6)
11. Shifted about and avoided doing something unpleasant (6)
13. Author sounds as if he is more correct (6)
16. Tins removed from Plasticine model of fish (6)
18. Mob in action upsetting union (11)
19. Follow boxer's prize money round the bend (6)
20. Vandal Gary, losing article, was famished (6)
21. Light skate (3)

DOWN

1. Dog for hunting second bird of prey (6)
2. 150 new grey ministers (6)
3. I'd lost out through being unemotional (6)
4. Place where one is surrounded by pure colour (6)
6. Somehow protects men from awkward occurrence (11)
8. Today hinder arrangement for removal of water (11)
10. To what an extent is this a greeting? (3)
12. When in clothing it shouldn't run fast (3)
14. Reimburse using some more coupons (6)
15. Rebel leader, one helping invader (6)
16. It's excellent to be like a fruit (6)
17. Midpoint of many an unfinished course (6)

SUDOKU

Easy

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box.

Hard

4	6	1			2		9	7
	2	7	6					4
	8		4		7	3	2	
		3	9	8	5			
	4	9		2				
6				7		2	3	
						6		
8	9						4	3
	1	6	8		3	9	7	

		4					6	2
	3	8	1		2			
			5	6				
	1		9				4	
2							5	
					7	9		8
	9		4		6			3
		7		3				

EQUALISER

8 8
6 ◯ 3 ◯ 4
7 3
10 ◯ 2 ◯ 1
3 1

Place the four signs (add, subtract, multiply, divide) one in each circle so that the total of each across and down line is the same.

Perform the first calculation in each line first and ignore the mathematical law which says you should always perform division and multiplication before addition and subtraction.

All puzzles on this page are supplied by Sirius Media Services. To try more of our puzzles interactively online go to **www.puzzledrome.com**

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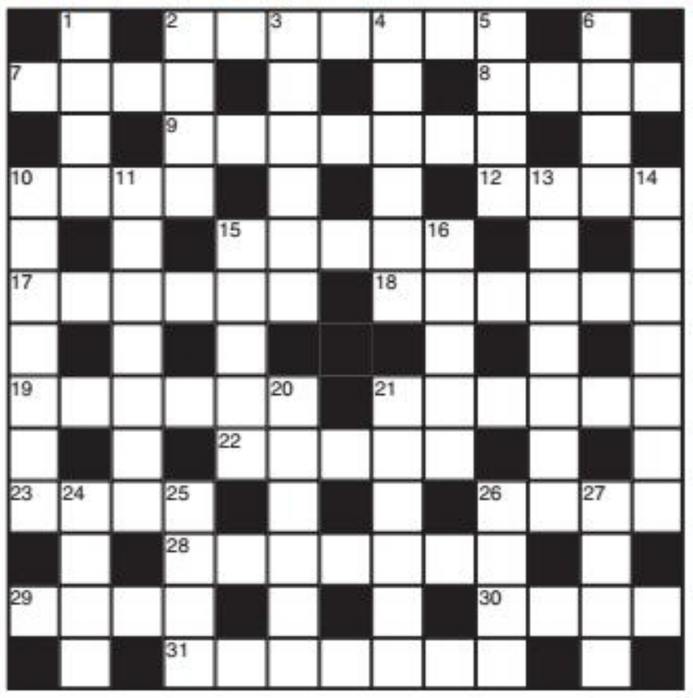
QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

2. Please greatly (7)
7. Opera solo (4)
8. French priest (4)
9. Alike (7)
10. Reed (4)
12. Body powder (4)
15. Old French province (5)
17. War fleet (6)
18. Pretentious (6)
19. Impede (6)
21. Part of foot (6)
22. Regretting (5)
23. Bloodstained (4)
26. Cross swiftly (4)
28. Final stage in a chess match (7)
29. Draw towards oneself (4)
30. Wheel spindle (4)
31. Biggest (7)

DOWN

1. German woman (4)
2. Confound (4)
3. Animal (anag.) (6)
4. Horse's gait (6)
5. Uncovered pie (4)
6. Cain's brother (4)
10. Selfish motorist (4,3)
11. Discussion group (7)
13. Living in water (7)
14. Axed (7)
15. Common viper (5)
16. Employing (5)
20. Steering device (6)
21. Enter by military force (6)
24. Egg (4)
25. Cry out (4)
26. Chair (4)
27. Hideous (4)

SOLUTIONS

QUIZ CHALLENGE: 1 Michael Winner; 2 Uzbekistan; 3 M; 4 Chocks; 5 Chicago; 6 Saint Matthew; 7 Every Breath You Take; 8 Portugal; 9 Nick Tilsley; 10 France.

CROSS CODE

1 F	2 E	3	4 K	5 T	6 N	7 S	8 R	9 C	10 H	23 G	22 D	21 P	20 I	19 V	18 W	17 J	16 X	15 U	14 B
13 A	26 L	25 Z	24 Q	11 Y	12 O														

EASY SUDOKU

4	6	1	5	3	2	8	9	7
3	2	7	6	9	8	1	5	4
9	8	5	4	1	7	3	2	6
2	7	3	9	8	5	4	6	1
1	4	9	3	2	6	7	8	5
6	5	8	1	7	4	2	3	9
7	3	4	2	5	9	6	1	8
8	9	2	7	6	1	5	4	3
5	1	6	8	4	3	9	7	2

HARD SUDOKU

9	7	4	3	8	5	1	6	2
5	2	1	6	9	4	8	3	7
6	3	8	1	7	2	4	9	5
7	4	9	5	6	3	2	8	1
3	1	5	9	2	8	7	4	6
2	8	6	7	4	1	3	5	9
4	6	3	2	5	7	9	1	8
8	9	2	4	1	6	5	7	3
1	5	7	8	3	9	6	2	4

MAGIC SQUARE: hope; over; pets; Erse.

WORD PYRAMID: Situation comedy.

EQUALISER: Clockwise from top left – add; subtract; multiply; divide. Total: 5.

QUICK CROSSWORD:

Across – 2 Delight; 7 Aria; 8 Abbe; 9 Similar; 10 Rush; 12 Talc; 15 Anjou; 17 Armada; 18 Pseudo; 19 Hinder; 21 Instep; 22 Ruing; 23 Gory; 26 Scud; 28 Endgame; 29 Pull; 30 Axle; 31 Largest.

Down – 1 Frau; 2 Dash; 3 Lamina; 4 Gallop; 5 Tart; 6 Abel; 10 Road hog; 11 Seminar; 13 Aquatic; 14 Chopped; 15 Adder; 16 Using; 20 Rudder; 21 Invade; 24 Ovum; 25 Yell; 26 Seat; 27 Ugly.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD:

Across – 2 Cos; 5 Pencil; 7 Tedium; 9 Generalship; 10 Hearty; 11 Dodged; 13 Writer; 16 Plaice; 18 Combination; 19 Pursue; 20 Hungry; 21 Ray.

Down – 1 Beagle; 2 Clergy; 3 Stolid; 4 Purple; 6 Contretemps; 8 Dehydration; 10 How; 12 Dye; 14 Recoup; 15 Raider; 16 Peachy; 17 Centre.

NONAGRAM:

agape; apace; ape; aspect; atop; cape; capo; capot; cope; copse; epact; estop; gape; gasp; paca; pace; pact; page; past; pasta; paste; pate; pâte; pâté; peat; peso; pest; pesto; poet; pose; post; postage; potage; scape; SCAPEGOAT; scope; sept; soap; space; spae; spat; spate; spec; spot; step; stop; stope; tapa; tape; toecap; tope.

FIVE ALIVE:

(1) Across – Choir; Acted; Myths. **Down** – Charm; Octet; Rides.

(2) Across – Amass; Odour; Gallop. **Down** – Among; Atoll; Scrap.

CLARENDON
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

HOST FAMILIES REQUIRED

Clarendon is a long established, accredited and highly regarded educational consultancy, providing a guardianship service for international children attending boarding schools across the UK.

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For further information about remuneration and how to become involved in making overseas children's education and time in the UK a truly positive experience, please telephone us on

01865 989697 or email clarendon@clarendon.uk.com

We give every possible support to our Clarendon families to ensure that they have a positive and enjoyable experience also.

Clarendon is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects its staff and host families to share this commitment and undergo the appropriate checks.

Friday March 16th

TOP TV

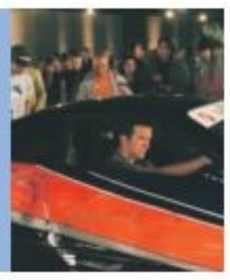
BBC 1

5.15pm Pointless

BBC 2

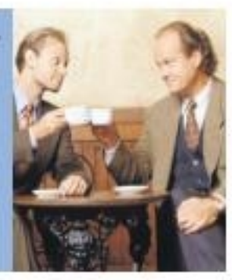
7.00pm Saving Lives at Sea

ITV



10.45pm The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift

Channel 4



9.00am Frasier

Channel 5

8.00pm The Yorkshire Steam Railway: All Aboard

MORNING

BBC 1		BBC 2		ITV		Channel 4		Channel 5	
9.15am	Holding Back the Years	7.15am	The Sheriffs are Coming	8.30am	Lorraine	8.00am	Winter Paralympics Breakfast	8.20am	Digby Dragon
10.00am	Homes Under the Hammer	8.00am	Back in Time for Tea	9.25am	The Jeremy Kyle Show	9.00am	Frasier	8.35am	Rusty Rivets
11.00am	The Sheriffs are Coming	9.00am	Victoria Derbyshire	10.30am	This Morning	10.05am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	8.55am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
11.45am	Caught Red Handed	11.00am	BBC Newsroom Live			11.00am	Undercover Boss USA	9.05am	Mofy
								9.15am	The Wright Stuff
								11.15am	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

AFTERNOON

BBC 1		BBC 2		ITV		Channel 4		Channel 5	
12.15pm	Bargain Hunt	12.00pm	The Daily Politics	12.30pm	ITV Lunchtime News	12.00pm	Channel 4 News	12.10pm	5 News Lunchtime
1.00pm	BBC News at One	1.00pm	Two Tribes	12.55pm	ITV News London	12.05pm	Come Dine with Me	12.15pm	GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1.30pm	Regional News and Weather	1.30pm	Yes Chef	1.00pm	Cheltenham Festival	1.05pm	Posh Pawnbrokers	1.10pm	Access
1.45pm	Doctors	2.15pm	Your Home in Their Hands	4.30pm	Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury	2.10pm	Countdown	1.15pm	Home and Away
2.15pm	A Place to Call Home	3.15pm	Planet Earth	5.00pm	The Chase	3.00pm	A Place in the Sun	1.45pm	Neighbours
3.00pm	Escape to the Country	4.15pm	Into the Wild with Gordon Buchanan			4.00pm	A New Life in the Sun	2.20pm	NCIS
3.45pm	Coast and Country Auctions	5.15pm	Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is			5.00pm	Four in a Bed	3.15pm	Locked Away
4.30pm	Flog It!					5.30pm	Extreme Cake Makers	5.00pm	5 News at 5
5.15pm	Pointless							5.30pm	Neighbours

EVENING

BBC 1		BBC 2		ITV		Channel 4		Channel 5	
6.00pm	BBC News at Six	6.00pm	Eggheads	6.00pm	ITV News London	6.00pm	The Simpsons	6.00pm	Home and Away
6.30pm	Regional News and Weather	6.30pm	The Repair Shop	6.30pm	ITV Evening News	6.30pm	Hollyoaks	6.30pm	5 News Tonight
7.00pm	The One Show	7.00pm	Saving Lives at Sea	7.00pm	Emmerdale	7.00pm	Channel 4 News	7.00pm	The Gadget Show
7.30pm	MasterChef	8.00pm	Mastermind	7.30pm	Coronation Street	7.30pm	Winter Paralympics Today	8.00pm	The Yorkshire Steam Railway: All Aboard
8.00pm	EastEnders	8.30pm	Gardeners' World	8.00pm	Love Your Garden	8.00pm	Scruffts: Britain's Favourite Dog	9.00pm	Jane Mcdonald and Friends
8.30pm	Room 101	9.00pm	Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago	8.30pm	Coronation Street	9.00pm	Gogglebox	10.00pm	Will and Grace
9.00pm	Requiem	10.00pm	QI	9.00pm	Lethal Weapon	10.00pm	The Last Leg	10.30pm	Lip Sync Battle UK
10.00pm	BBC News at Ten	10.30pm	Newsnight	10.00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	11.05pm	Winter Paralympics Highlights	11.00pm	Greatest Celebrity Wind-Ups Ever!
10.25pm	Regional News and Weather	11.05pm	The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story	10.30pm	ITV News London	12.15am	Winter Paralympics Live	12.00am	Cruising with Jane McDonald
10.35pm	The Young Offenders	11.55pm	Hitchcock's Shower Scene: 78/52	10.45pm	The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift	6.00am	Winter Paralympics Live	12.15am	Super Casino
11.10pm	Shanghai Knights	1.20am	Civilisations	12.45am	Jackpot247			3.10am	Cowboy Builders
1.00am	Weather for the Week Ahead			3.00am	Take on the Twisters			4.00am	The X Files
1.05am	BBC News			3.50am	ITV Nightscreen				
6.00am	Breakfast								

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Saturday March 17th

BBC 1

TOP TV

9.00pm Troy: Fall of a City

MORNING

10.00am Saturday Kitchen Live
11.30am Classic Mary Berry

AFTERNOON

12.00pm Football Focus
1.00pm BBC News
1.15pm MasterChef
2.15pm MasterChef
3.15pm MasterChef
3.45pm Wanted Down Under Revisited
4.30pm Six Nations Rugby Union

EVENING

7.00pm BBC News
7.10pm Regional News and Weather
7.20pm Pointless
8.10pm Casualty
9.00pm Troy: Fall of a City
10.00pm BBC News
10.20pm Match of the Day
11.20pm Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights
11.50pm Gambit
1.10am Weather for the Week Ahead
1.15am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

TOP TV

9.00pm Suite Francaise

MORNING

8.00am Absolute Genius: Monster Builds
8.30am Beyond Bionic
9.00am Robot Wars
10.00am Gorilla Family and Me
11.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.35am Cats v Dogs: Which is Best?

AFTERNOON

12.35pm Talking Pictures
1.20pm Waterloo
3.30pm Me and My Dog
4.30pm Final Score
5.30pm The Repair Shop

EVENING

6.00pm Hugh's Wild West
7.00pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby
8.00pm David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities
8.30pm Dad's Army
9.00pm Suite Francaise
10.40pm Performance Live: Winged Bull in the Elephant Case
11.10pm Defiance
1.15am Civilisations
2.15am This is BBC Two
6.05am Coast

ITV

TOP TV

8.30pm The Voice UK

MORNING

8.30am Be Cool, Scooby-Doo
9.05am Wishfart
9.25am Saturday Morning with James Martin
11.20am Britain's Brightest Family
11.50am ITV Lunchtime News

AFTERNOON

12.00pm Six Nations Live
2.25pm Six Nations Live
5.00pm The Chase

EVENING

6.00pm ITV Evening News
6.15pm ITV News London
6.30pm You've Been Framed!
7.00pm Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
8.30pm The Voice UK
10.30pm ITV News
10.45pm Fast and Furious
12.45am Play to the Whistle
1.30am Jackpot247
3.00am Babushka
3.50am ITV Nightscreen
6.00am Sooty
6.10am Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids

Channel 4

TOP TV

4.25pm The Secret Life of the Zoo

MORNING

8.00am Winter Paralympics Breakfast
9.00am Frasier
10.30am The Big Bang Theory
10.55am The Big Bang Theory
11.25am The Big Bang Theory
11.55am The Simpsons

AFTERNOON

12.25pm The Simpsons
12.55pm The Simpsons
1.25pm Casper
3.20pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun
4.25pm The Secret Life of the Zoo
5.30pm Winter Paralympics Today

EVENING

6.30pm Channel 4 News
7.00pm Penelope Keith's Coastal Villages
8.00pm Britain at Low Tide
9.00pm Fantastic Four
10.55pm 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown
11.55pm The Inbetweeners
12.30am Winter Paralympics Live
5.35am Location, Location, Location
6.30am Everybody Loves Raymond
6.55am Everybody Loves Raymond

Channel 5

TOP TV

1.30pm Police Interceptors

MORNING

9.35am Digby Dragon
9.50am Peppa Pig
10.00am Peppa Pig
10.05am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
10.35am The Gadget Show
11.35am Police Interceptors

AFTERNOON

12.35pm Police Interceptors
1.30pm Police Interceptors
2.30pm The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door
3.30pm The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door
4.30pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
5.25pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

EVENING

6.25pm 5 News Weekend
6.30pm FIA Formula E Live
8.10pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
9.00pm Football on 5
9.55pm Football on 5
10.30pm Hayemaker Fight Night: Joe Joyce v Donnie Palmer
12.00am Super Casino
3.10am Cowboy Builders
4.00am Cowboy Builders
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am HouseBusters
5.35am Wildlife SOS
6.00am Little Princess

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Following a survey carried out in 2015 by Anovum (a market research company) on 1325 hearing impaired people (605 hearing aid wearers and 720 not wearing hearing aids). The survey reports that hearing aids not only improve capabilities of hearing well but also improved the general health of hearing aid wearers compared to hearing impaired people who do not wear a hearing aid. Hearing aid users are less likely to think they have the symptoms of dementia, feel less physically and mentally exhausted, sleep better and are less likely to suffer from depression.

The survey confirms what some Audiologists have suspected for some time, that hearing aids are not only good for correcting hearing loss but in fact contribute to better and more active lives, better quality of life, and better overall health.

For the hearing impaired workers who wear a hearing aid it is reported that their hearing aids are useful for their job and that the hearing aids also increase the chance of them getting promoted, being in the right job and getting more salary compared to those hearing impaired people who have not obtained hearing aids.

The full report can be found at EuroTrak UK 2015 – ehima

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Sunday March 18th

TOP TV

BBC 1

7.00pm Countryfile

BBC 2

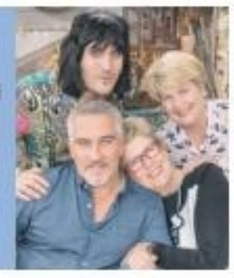
12.45pm The Ladykillers: Pest Detectives

ITV

8.00pm The Durrells

Channel 4

5.15pm The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer



Channel 5

7.20pm Jumper

MORNING

7.25am Match of the Day
8.30am Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights
9.00am The Andrew Marr Show
10.00am The Big Questions
11.00am Sunday Politics

8.20am Countryfile
9.15am Saturday Kitchen Best Bites
10.45am Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge
11.30am Lorraine Pascale: How to be a Better Cook

8.30am Spy School
9.05am Wishfart
9.25am ITV News
9.30am Love Your Garden
10.00am Peston on Sunday
10.55am The Voice UK

7.25am Mobil 1
8.00am Winter Paralympics Breakfast
9.00am Frasier
9.30am Sunday Brunch

9.00am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.15am Shimmer and Shine
9.30am Digby Dragon
9.45am Peppa Pig
10.00am Football on 5
11.25am Getting Even with Dad

AFTERNOON

12.15pm Lifeline
12.25pm Songs of Praise
1.00pm BBC News
1.15pm Match of the Day Live
3.35pm A Question of Sport
4.05pm Match of the Day Live

12.00pm Escape to the Country
12.45pm The Ladykillers: Pest Detectives
1.45pm Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago
2.45pm Money for Nothing
3.45pm World's Most Extraordinary Homes
4.45pm Back in Time for Tea
5.45pm Catch Me If You Can

12.55pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.00pm Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
2.30pm What Would Your Kid Do?
3.30pm The Harbour
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase: Celebrity Special

12.30pm Winter Paralympics Today
2.00pm Winter Paralympics Closing Ceremony
3.15pm Epic
5.15pm The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer

1.30pm Richie Rich
3.15pm My Girl
4.15pm 5 News
4.20pm My Girl
5.20pm Junior

EVENING

6.35pm BBC News
6.50pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm Countryfile
8.00pm Hold the Sunset
8.30pm Brooklyn
10.10pm BBC News
10.30pm Regional News and Weather
10.40pm Paddy Mcguinness' Sport Relief Warm Up
11.40pm The Sentinel
1.20am Weather for the Week Ahead
1.25am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

8.00pm Top Gear
9.00pm Famously Unfit for Sports Relief
10.00pm The Mash Report
10.30pm Top Gear: Extra Gear
10.55pm Women's Six Nations Highlights
11.25pm Being Blacker
12.55am Question Time
1.55am Holby City
2.55am This is BBC Two
6.00am The Repair Shop
6.30am Holding Back the Years

6.00pm Paul O'grady: For the Love of Dogs
6.30pm ITV Evening News
6.45pm ITV News London
7.00pm Celebrity Catchphrase
8.00pm The Durrells
9.00pm The Good Karma Hospital
10.05pm ITV News
10.20pm Peston on Sunday
11.15pm Six Nations Highlights
12.10am Marcella
1.00am Jackpot247
3.00am Take on the Twisters
3.50am ITV Nightscreen

6.30pm Channel 4 News
7.00pm Britain's Polar Bear Cub
8.00pm Escape to the Chateau
9.00pm Homeland
10.05pm 13 Commandments
11.00pm Solace
12.55am The Last Leg
1.50am The Job Interview
2.45am KOTV Boxing Weekly
3.25am Gillette World Sport
3.55am Dispatches
4.25am Location, Location, Location
5.20am Food Unwrapped
5.45am Kirsty's Homemade Home

7.20pm Jumper
8.55pm 5 News Weekend
9.00pm The Equalizer
10.00pm 5 News
10.05pm The Equalizer
11.35pm The Expendables 2
1.35am Super Casino
3.10am Cowboy Builders
4.00am World's Most Pampered Pets
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am HouseBusters
5.35am Wildlife SOS
6.00am Puffin Rock
6.10am Poppy Cat

Monday March 19th

BBC 1

TOP TV

4.30pm Flog It!

MORNING

9.15am Holding Back the Years
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am The Sheriffs are Coming
11.45am Caught Red Handed

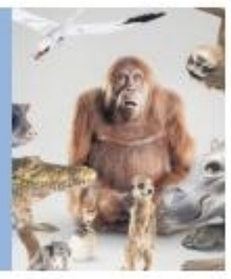
AFTERNOON

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News at One
1.30pm Regional News and Weather
1.45pm Doctors
2.15pm A Place to Call Home
3.00pm Escape to the Country
3.45pm Money for Nothing
4.30pm Flog It!
5.15pm Pointless

EVENING

6.00pm BBC News at Six
6.30pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm The One Show
7.30pm Panorama
8.00pm EastEnders
8.30pm Classic Mary Berry
9.00pm MasterChef
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.30pm Regional News and Weather
10.45pm Imagine...
12.15am Have I Got a Bit More Old News for You
12.55am Weather for the Week Ahead
1.00am BBC News

BBC 2



TOP TV

4.15pm Spy in the Wild

MORNING

7.15am The Sheriffs are Coming
8.00am Hugh's Wild West
9.00am Victoria Derbyshire
11.00am BBC Newsroom Live
11.30am The Week in Parliament

AFTERNOON

12.00pm The Daily Politics
1.00pm Women's Six Nations Highlights
1.30pm Yes Chef
2.15pm Your Home in Their Hands
3.15pm Planet Earth
4.15pm Spy in the Wild
5.15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

EVENING

6.00pm Eggheads
6.30pm The Repair Shop
7.00pm Top Gear
8.00pm Only Connect
8.30pm University Challenge
9.00pm The Funeral Murders
10.00pm QI
10.30pm Newsnight
11.15pm Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago
12.15am Panorama
12.45am Countryfile
1.40am Imagine...
2.40am This is BBC Two

ITV

TOP TV

7.30pm Coronation Street

MORNING

8.30am Lorraine
9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
10.30am This Morning

AFTERNOON

12.30pm Loose Women
1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.55pm ITV News London
2.00pm Judge Rinder
3.00pm Dickinson's Real Deal
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

EVENING

6.00pm ITV News London
6.30pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Coronation Street
8.00pm The Kyle Files
8.30pm Coronation Street
9.00pm Marcella
10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
10.35pm ITV News London
10.50pm 100 Years Younger in 21 Days
11.45pm The Kyle Files
12.15am Jackpot247
3.00am The Jeremy Kyle Show
3.55am ITV Nightscreen

Channel 4

TOP TV

8.30pm Food Unwrapped

MORNING

7.10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
7.35am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.30am Frasier
10.05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
11.00am Undercover Boss USA

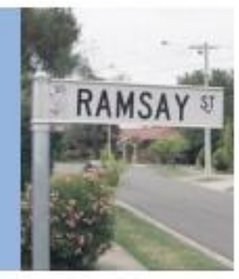
AFTERNOON

12.00pm Channel 4 News
12.05pm Come Dine with Me
1.05pm Posh Pawnbrokers
2.10pm Countdown
3.00pm A Place in the Sun
4.00pm A New Life in the Sun
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Star Boot Sale

EVENING

6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
8.00pm Dispatches
8.30pm Food Unwrapped
9.00pm 24 Hours in Police Custody
10.00pm Electric Dreams
11.05pm One Killer Punch
12.05am Seven Year Switch
1.00am One Born Every Minute
1.55am It's a Weird World
2.50am The Question Jury
3.45am Coast v Country
4.35am Location, Location, Location

Channel 5



TOP TV

5.30pm Neighbours

MORNING

8.20am Digby Dragon
8.35am Rusty Rivets
8.55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.05am Mofy
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

AFTERNOON

12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.15pm The Gadget Show
1.15pm Home and Away
1.45pm Neighbours
2.20pm NCIS
3.20pm A Deadly Affair
5.00pm 5 News at 5
5.30pm Neighbours

EVENING

6.00pm Home and Away
6.30pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm Rugby on 5: Anglo-Welsh Cup Highlights
8.00pm Extreme Winter Road Rescue
9.00pm Terror in the Air: Flights Out of Control
10.00pm Armed and Deadly: Police UK
11.00pm The X Files
12.00am All New Traffic Cops
12.55am Britain's Greatest Bridges
1.15am Super Casino
3.10am Cowboy Builders

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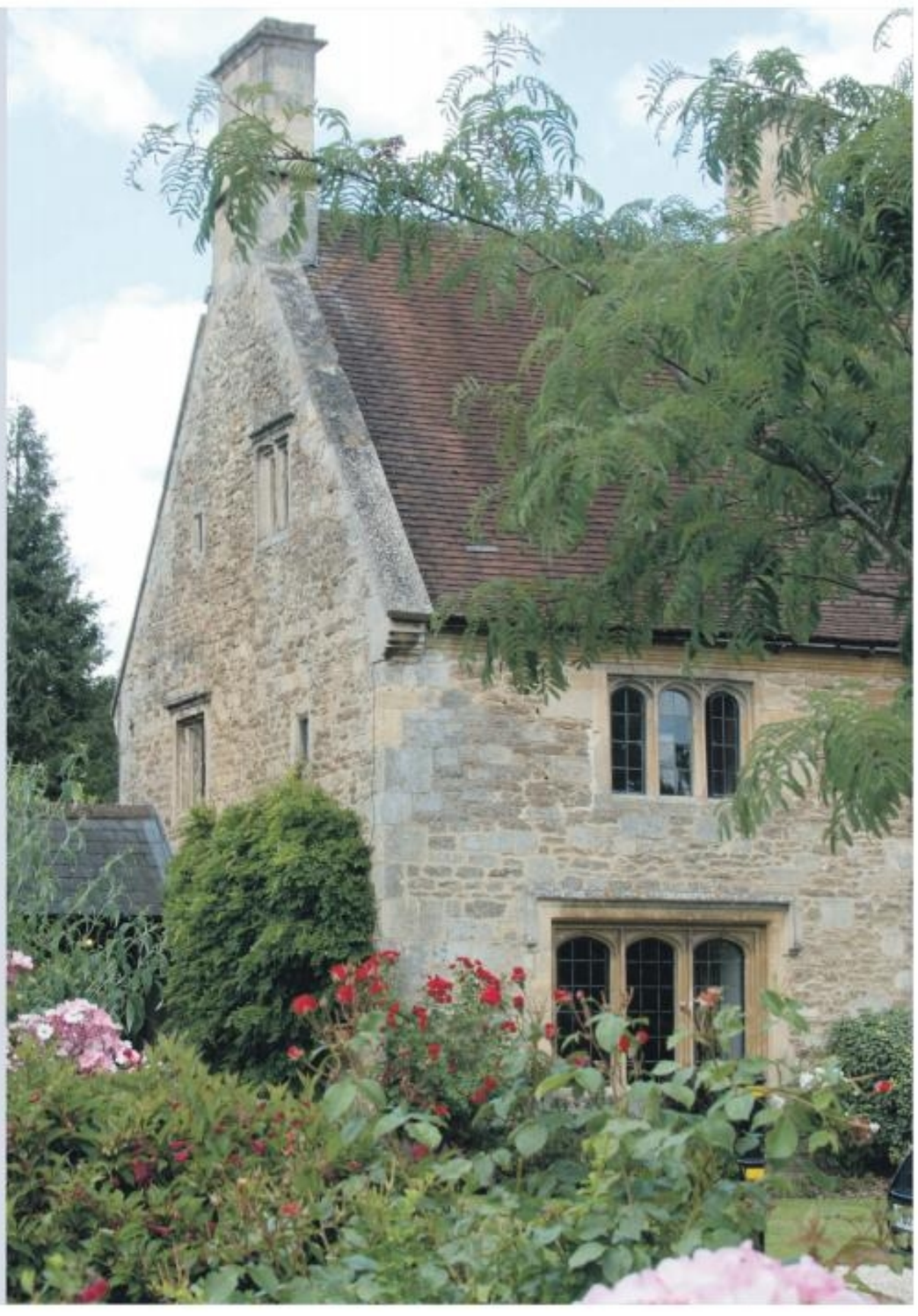

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Oxford's £634,910,400 "Rentirement" Property Market Time Bomb

Bill Cooper, co-author of The Oxford Property Blog and managing director of Martin and Co, Oxford

Yes, I said 'rentirement', not retirement ... rentirement relates to the 1,278 (and growing) Oxford people, who don't own their own Oxford home but rent their home, privately from a buy to let landlord and who are currently in their 50's and early to mid-60's.

The average rent in Oxford is £2,070 a month, so a lot of the retirement "income" will be taken up in rent, meaning the remainder will have to be paid out of savings or the taxpayer will have to stump up the bill (and with life expectancy currently in the mid to late 80's, that is quite a big bill ... a total of £634,910,400 over the next 20 years to be paid from the tenant's savings or the taxpayers coffers to be precise!

You might say it's not fair for Oxford tax payers to pick up the bill and that these mature Oxford renters should start saving thousands of pounds a year now to be able to afford their rent in retirement. However, in many circumstances, the reason these people are privately renting in the first place is that they were never able to find the money for a mortgage deposit on their home in the first place or didn't earn enough to qualify for a mortgage.

For a change, the Oxford 30 to 40 somethings will be better off, as their parents are more likely to be homeowners and cascade their equity down the line when their parents pass away. For example, that is what is happening in Europe where renting is common, the majority of people rent in their 20's, 30's and 40's, but by the time they hit 50's and 60's (and retirement), they will invest the money they have inherited from their parents passing away to buy their own home.

So, what does this all mean for buy to let landlords in Oxford?

Have you noticed how the new homes builders don't build bungalows anymore, in fact some would say the 'bungalow storey' is over. The waning in the number of bungalows being built has more to do with supply than demand. The fact is that for new homes builders there is more money in constructing houses than there is in constructing bungalows. Bungalows are voracious when it comes to land they need because a bungalow has a larger footprint for the same amount of square meterage as a two/three storey house due to the fact they are on one level instead of two or three.

That means, demand will continue to rise for bungalows but supply will remain the same. We all know what happens when demand outs strips supply ... prices (i.e. rents) for bungalows will inevitably go up.

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It's countdown to EPC-Day for landlords

If you're a landlord, then there's now less than three weeks to ensure that your rental properties meet Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES).

Hopefully this won't come as a great surprise as the changes have been known about for almost three years. However, the reality is that for some this will have been one of those 'must look in to that' jobs that you never quite got around to.

The reality is, however, that from April 1 this year any rental property will need to achieve a minimum "E" rating for all new leases and renewals. It will be illegal to rent a property that does not meet this minimum requirement due to what will be deemed its 'substandard' conditions and within two years, (April 2020), the same will apply for all existing tenancies too.

The penalty for failing to adhere to this isn't to be ignored either as Trading Standards will soon be able to impose fines of up to £4,000 for non-compliance. Now, therefore, is the time to urgently access the energy efficiency of your properties and ensure you put the necessary improvements in place to ensure your portfolio makes the grade.

First things, first: you'll need to ensure that your properties have valid and up to date EPCs in place. Going through the necessary expert assessment will allow a new EPC to reflect any recent improvements which you've made, as well as highlight any improvements that can be made.

It's worth remembering too that these improvements don't need to be terribly onerous or difficult to carry out. One of the major causes of heat loss in a residential building is through doors and windows with insufficient seals so replacing these can help to eliminate any drafts, whilst adding additional insulation to loft areas can help reduce heat loss through roofs. Don't forget too that low energy LED bulbs can often be installed in to existing sockets!

Cavity wall insulation and replacement windows are other options, although both are arguably more disruptive unless you've planned to carry out a wider scheme of improvements. If this is the case, then you may also consider an upgrade to a more energy efficient boiler or the installation of a smart meter.

Something to remember, however, is that even if you're not a landlord but are planning to sell your property to an investor who will rent it out then the EPC rating will still need to make the minimum "E" grade. Where the responsibility in this situation lies is naturally a grey area, but ensuring a property is as energy efficient as it possibly can be is no bad thing and will help to improve its overall saleability.

If you have queries relating to how you can make your property as energy efficient as possible, then the team at your local Andrews branch – there are five across Oxfordshire – will be happy to help and advise you. www.andrewsonline.co.uk

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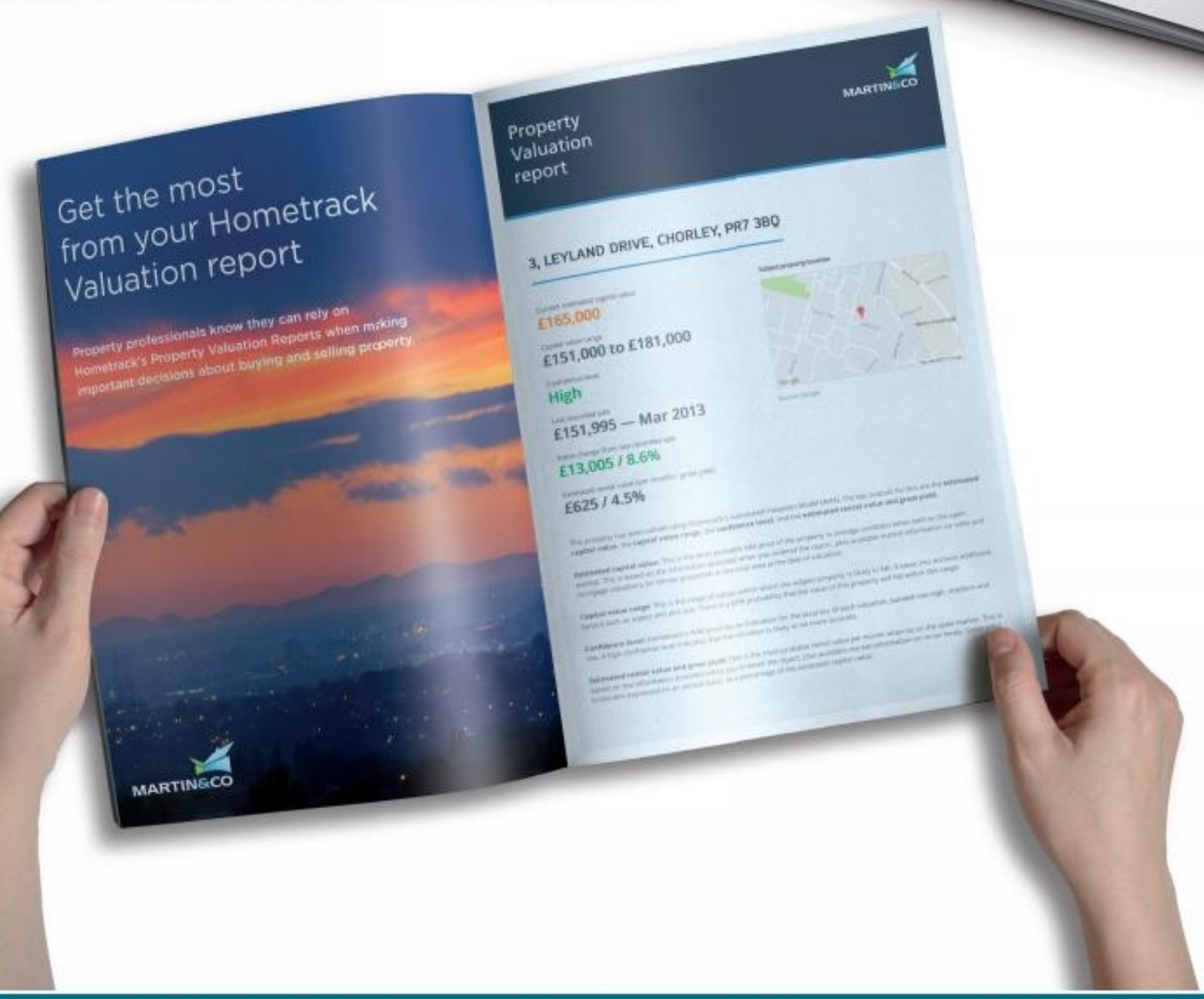
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Ford EDGE Vignale 2.0 TDCi AWD PowerShift Auto

All-wheel drive does have the EDGE

By **Tony Yates**

THERE are a couple of reasons why you would buy a Ford EDGE. Firstly, the thought of doing 600mph in a hot hatch has had its day. Secondly, the EDGE is designed with you in mind – no fuss, no drama, just a decent vehicle that will be very loyal. Yes, occasionally it may annoy you, but in the end, you will forgive it – just because it makes you feel happy.

Of course, some of you will frown because its a diesel – I say, if you want to spend a big majority of your life waiting for the battery light to turn green on your new car before you can go anywhere, then be my guest. Call me selfish, but I will continue to burn actual fuel until the day comes when we have none left. I will then go out and buy a bicycle.

Power & efficiency

The EDGE I had on test was equipped with 2.0 litre TDCi diesel engine that provides a maximum power output of 210 PS and a torque figure of 450Nm, and will pretty much pull anything you care to tie to the back of it. On the combined cycle I achieved 45mpg which is pretty outstanding when you consider its size. For all of you speed demons out there, the EDGE Vignale will reach a top speed of around131mph and reach 0-62mph in 9.4s which is OK. Saying that, I just wish it had a little bit more power, but I will forgive it due to the fact that it's actually rather good.

The EDGE also gets a move on with minimal fuss and has plenty of low down grunt as mentioned earlier. Yes, It's not as refined as some, but then again you can't have everything.

On the road

I was impressed by how the EDGE just glides across even the roughest of road surfaces, whilst also making even the largest of potholes simply disappear. In fact, it's so smooth, that you could run over a dustbin lid and I bet you would barely notice.

Also, dare I say it, it makes for the perfect vehicle to tow a caravan with, 'but who would want to do that!'.

Into the corners, it also feels controlled and steady with minimal

body roll for such a large vehicle. Even when pushed to its limits, there were no nasty surprises and nothing unexpected happened which means Ford has done some serious work on keeping everything in check. There was one niggle though, the EDGE was fitted with PowerShift, and it does suffer from a small amount of gearbox lag in normal mode. If I was you, I would keep it in sports mode pretty much all the time. Apart from that small niggle, all is good.

Don't forget, the Ford EDGE also has a great party piece in the form of AWD, meaning you can actually do a bit of off-road driving if that's your thing.

Design & technology

Inside, The EDGE looks great and has a nicely trimmed cabin which is something I think gives it the EDGE. You can also see that Ford has worked really hard to get the inside of the EDGE just right. Plus, its fitted with some of the best seats I have ever had the pleasure of sitting in. It's like sitting on my sofa at home it's that comfortable. The EDGE will also easily accommodate a large family with ease. We go camping every year as a family, and I always struggle to fit everything in. Well not if I had a Ford EDGE I wouldn't. I bet I could fit in all our camping gear, twice over.

The level of standard equipment on the EDGE Vignale version starts with 20" alloy wheels, unique Ford Vignale exterior styling, Ford sync 3 with voice control, acoustic side glass, adaptive lighting with LED headlights, unique LED fog lights, Active City Stop with pedestrian detection, front & rear parking sensors, premium leather seating, enhanced ambient lighting, tyre pressure monitoring system and a whole lot more that frankly just keeps on coming.

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13 63 HONDA CR-V 2.0 I-VTEC SR PETROL 5DR, met blue with half leather, alloys, alarm, bluetooth, climate & cruise control, e/windows, e/folding mirrors, Reverse camera, parking sensors, Xenon Lights, FSH, 23K **£14,795**

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12 12 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 KX-3 PETROL 5DR, Black with half leather seats, alloys, auto lights , bluetooth, cruise control, e/mirrors, e/windows, radio/cd, roof rails, panoramic roof, FSH, 57K **£11,495**

11 60 NISSAN QASHQAI+2 2.0 DCI N-TEC 4WD DIESEL 5DR, met grey, alloys, bluetooth, climate & crusie control, panoramic roof, reverse camera, sat nav, 7 seats, FSH, 82K **£8,995**

12 12 PEUGEOT 5008 1.6 HDI 115 ACTIVE 5DR MANUAL, black, cruise, parking sensors, radio/cd, air con, FSH, 28k **£8,495**

12 62 FORD B-MAX 1.5 TDCI ZETEC 5DR MANUAL, blue, alloys, aircon, bluetooth, DAB radio, e/mirrors + windows, heated screen, rear sliding doors, FSH, 52K **£6,295**

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13 13 VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 ELITE CDTI 5DR AUTO, met grey with full black leather, heated seats, FSH, 70k **£ 6,295**

10 59 FORD FIESTA 1.4 PETROL TITANIUM 5DR AUTO, met silver, radio/cd, alloys, electric folding wing mirrors, cruise, e/windows, FSH, 57k **£5,995**

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Advertorial

Oxfordshire business, Johnsons Honda, celebrates award win for excellent customer service

Motability customers in Oxfordshire can be sure of receiving award-winning customer service when they visit local dealer Johnsons Honda who have won a regional award for their work with the Motability Car Scheme. The accolade is part of a programme of awards, launched last year by Motability Operations, to recognise and reward outstanding customer service provided by local Motability dealerships.

The Dealer Awards programme is designed to reward best practice and ensure all Motability customers receive exemplary customer service across the Motability Scheme's national dealer network. The Awards are judged on how a dealer delivers the Scheme to customers, which is assessed by customer feedback and reviews of their performance. All winners of the quarterly awards are automatically entered into the national, annual awards which are announced at the beginning of the following year.

Peter Wilson, General Manager – Dealer Relations at Motability Operations, explains:

"The focus of these awards is to thank our dealer partners for providing a consistently positive customer service experience, after all, they are often the first point of contact for our customers. It's important for us to recognise our dealer partners who go above and beyond when representing the Motability Scheme and highlight those who are setting a great example of how to do it well, like Johnsons Honda Many congratulations to them on their award."

Celebrating their Motability Dealer Award win, Ken Joines from Johnsons Honda said:

"All of us at Johnsons Honda are incredibly proud to win this Motability Dealer Award and are pleased to be recognised for our dedication to working in partnership with the Scheme, which is renowned for its high standards. We look forward to continuing our award-winning approach to business and customer service and to welcoming many more Motability customers through our doors in 2018."

Anyone who receives the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance, the Enhanced Rate of the Mobility Component of Personal Independence Payment, War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement or Armed Forces Independence Payment can exchange their weekly payment to lease a new car through the Motability Scheme. Insurance, servicing, RAC breakdown assistance and replacement tyres are included in the cost of the lease.

For more information about the Motability Scheme and to find your local dealer, visit www.motability.co.uk or call 0800 953 7000.

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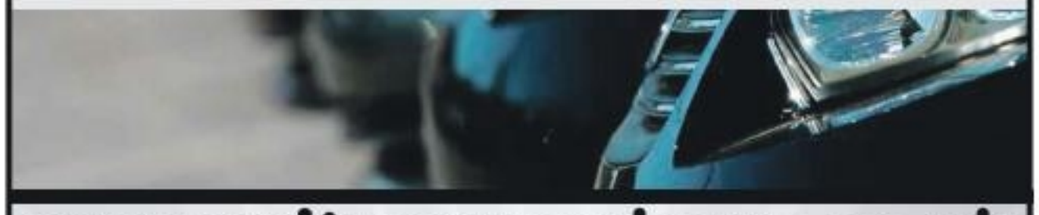

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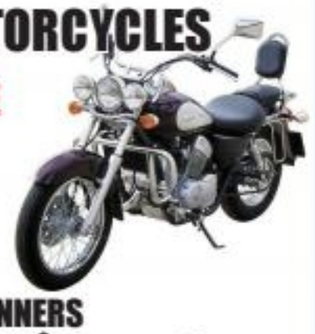

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SIXTY fifth birthday glass pint mug still boxed £20 after 4pm tel: 01865 340878

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MANDOLIN new unwanted gift £50 tel: 01865 454713

COLLECTABLE Denby jug GPO colour brown £5 tel: 01865 454713

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LADIES classic casual coat colour cream brown trim full length size 14 £30 tel: 01865 454713

ECCO shoes light brown suede laces size 8 never worn cost £75 new now £40 tel: 01865 454713

JESSOPS 8inch digital picture frame £25 tel: 01865 763851

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CLAUD butler racing bike 14 gears good condition offers tel: 01235 533363

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PAUL Smith blue jeans regular style 34" waist length £20 M&S dark navy blazer size 14-16 30h tel: 01235 523162

NAVY Blazer size 14-16 woollen £15 poplin jacket for sale £10 for 2 size 14 tel: 01235 523162Petrol strimmer with hedge cutter attachment g/con £30 tel: 01235 835608

MCCULLOCH electrical chain saw good condition £20 tel: 01235 835608

AIR rifle 2.2 good condition £50 tel: 01235 835608

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LADIES bike single speed with basket and pump £50 ono 4 videos of Will Hay £25 ono tel: 07586 067412

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STAG Minstrel high chest four drawers plus three small ones excellent condition £20 no offers tel: 01235 530424

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LADIES bike 22in wheels front and rear carriers fat tyres good con £10 tel: 01865 433089

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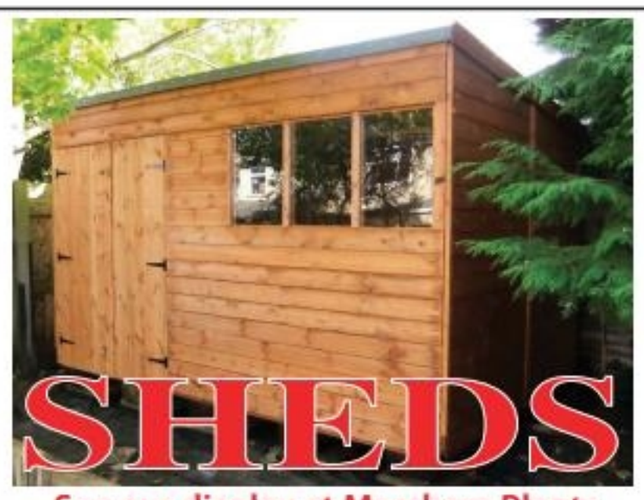

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Feeling positive after testing

By George Welch

F1

Sergey Sirotkin posted Williams' quickest time but remained at the bottom of the test two timesheet
Picture: *Williams Martini Racing*

"TESTING, done. Let's get to racing," Lewis Hamilton bellowed at the climax of an action-packed, weather-affected two weeks in Barcelona on Friday.

Unsurprisingly, Mercedes, Ferrari and Red Bull are leading the way following the eight-day, two-week test at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya – but what kind of season can Oxfordshire's three representatives expect?

Out of the county teams, who together form part of a packed midfield, it was Renault who looked more likely to lead the 'best of the rest'.

The Enstone team finished the week with lots of laps, plenty of new aerodynamic parts trialled on an impressively reliable RS18 – gearbox issues on the final day aside – and with the fifth fastest time of the winter, with tyre adjustment.

Carlos Sainz set that time and said testing was 'productive' and that he is 'feeling positive' ahead of the start of the season.

Haas may not have caught the eye prior to testing with their grey livery, but they certainly raised some eyebrows up and down the pit lane in Barcelona.

The Banbury-based outfit, who finished eighth in its freshman and sophomore year, have been dubbed the dark horse of the 2018 season following a mightily impressive testing.

Team chief Guenther Steiner put the VF-18's low-1:18 pace down to getting the tyres to work – a challenge midfield rivals Williams struggled with.

The Grove side lagged behind the rest in the timesheet and technical chief Paddy Lowe admitted that tyres were an issue.

Sergey Sirotkin set the team's fastest time on softs, while all other nine teams set their quickest times on either super-, ultra- or hyper-soft tyres as a Williams driver finished bottom on all four days of the second week.

With the fourth most number of laps completed (819) however, the early signs are good for the FW41's reliability.

Test driver Robert Kubica impressed in his outings and at one point was quicker than both race drivers, Sirotkin and Lance Stroll.

It is 10 days until the lights go out in Melbourne and the new Formula 1 season gets under way at the Australian Grand Prix.

Opportunity to experience competition

Para-swimming

THAME & District Lions Club is waiving the fee for the first Thame Para-Swimming Event next weekend.

The event is open to para-swimmers aged six years and over who can take part in a range of activities, including a short 25-metre race.

Swimmers will race one to a lane and be timed, while those requiring support will be able to have someone swimming alongside them.

The inaugural 2018 Thame Para-Swimming Event will be held at Better's Thame Leisure Centre and has been organised by Thame Swimming Club in association with Swim England Para-Swimming.

Mike Holms-Sharp, Thame & District Lions Club, said: "Not only will it be great fun, it'll also offer swimmers the chance to experience the competitive buzz with spectators cheering them on from poolside.

"We might even identify some local talent for the 2020 Paralympic Games."

Colin Williams, Better's community sports manager, said: "Swimming offers a host of physical and psychological benefits to both the abled bodied and disabled and can provide a real sense of freedom."

Fans get a taste of racing ahead of summer return

Former world champion Alain Prost chats with Nico Hulkenberg in Nice
Picture: *Renault Sport Formula One Racing*

F1

FRENCH Formula 1 fans sampled the sights and sounds of the sport before the return of the French Grand Prix at Paul Ricard this summer.

Enstone-based Renault tested cars from the past and modern era of Formula 1 during a street demo on the French Riviera, in the city of Nice, on Sunday.

Race driver Nico Hülkenberg drove the 2012 Renault V8 F1 car while four-times Formula 1 world champion Alain Prost got behind the wheel of his 1983 Renault RE40 V6 turbo for a few runs up and down the city's famous Promenade des Anglais.

Despite torrential rain and heavy cloud cover, thousands of fans turned out to get a glimpse of Hülkenberg and Prost negotiating one of the most famous roads in France.

Hülkenberg described the event as "fantastic".

"It's an amazing thing to be able to drive down Promenade des Anglais with a Formula 1 car. The sound was incredible. It's such a famous place in the South of France and you don't get to do it everyday!"

The street demo served as a support event to the Paris-Nice cycling race but that did not stop whetting the appetite of motorsport fans.

Formula 1 will return to France after an absence of 10 years this year, with the event taking place at the Circuit Paul Ricard on June 24.

Chinnor stay second with six left to play

Rugby

CHINNOR continued their assault on a top two position with their fourth win in a row after an entertaining 37-27 win over Wimbledon in the National Two South.

The victory keeps Chinnor second in the league on 105 points with six games to play.

Elsewhere, a Jack Robinson hat-trick inspired Henley Hawks to a 27-18 win at Bury St Edmunds to leave them sixth on 68 points.

In the South West 1 East, Grove's search for their first win since January goes on after Old Patesians ran out 39-14 winners to leave the south Oxfordshire side in 13th on 27 points.

At the foot of the table, Bicester lost 30-7 at Royal Wootton Bassett.

Oxford Harlequins' 31-14 home defeat to Chippenham leaves them one place and two points behind fifth placed Witney who lost 22-15 to Stratford Upon Avon.

At the summit, second-placed Banbury picked up their 11th league win in a row, beating Salisbury 19-5.

In the Southern Counties North, second-bottom Gosford All Blacks kept survival hopes alive beating Drifters 55-5.

Didcot lost 20-14 at home to Chesham in the Berks, Bucks & Oxon Premier, with Slough running out 63-15 winners over Abingdon and Littlemore beating Tadley 28-10.

Red Bull up the pace on 2017

MotoGP

BRADLEY Smith and team mate Pol Espargaro have unveiled the new Red Bull KTM machines for the 2018 season at the home of Red Bull's aircraft fleet, Hanger-7 in Salzburg, Austria

While the familiar orange and black colour scheme looks virtually the same, the new bikes were rigorously tested out on the Losail asphalt ahead of the Grand Prix of Qatar beginning on March 16.

Smith suffered a small crash on the second day of testing but recovered quickly to mark his quickest effort by day three in the unusually cool Qatar conditions.

He said: "It's nice to finally finish tests and iron out some of the details ready for the start of the season.

"It was good to also keep within that 1.1-1.2 gap to the front and, like Thailand, we were able to improve at the same rate as the other manufacturers and that means the Red Bull KTM team are reacting and doing a good job overnight.

"We are already 1.2 seconds faster than we were last year here, so we have to be very pleased."

The Grand Prix will take place at 5pm local time (2pm GMT) tomorrow (Friday).

Pit Berier, Hubert Trunkenpolz, Mika Kallio, Heinz Kinigadner, Pol Espargaro, Bradley Smith & Mike Leitner KTM RC16 Hangar-7 2018
Picture: *Markus Berger*

Sport

Quality opposition end Hoops run

By George Welch

Oxford City

OXFORD City's fine four-match winning run came to an end when they lost 1-0 at home to new National League South leaders Havant & Waterlooville on Saturday.

Jason Prior scored the only goal of the game for the Hawks right on the stroke of half time to consign the Hoops to their first defeat in a month.

Boss Mark Jones put his hands up and accepted the result against the 'quality' opposition who, with one league defeat in 19 games, overtook Dartford at the top of the table.

He said: "They've nicked it with a set piece goal which is disappointing. On another day we draw that game 0-0 and say 'that's not bad' against a team who, in my opinion, will go on to win the league.

"We ran a very good team very close. It wasn't to be and sometimes you've got to congratulate the opposition."

He added: "We've come on a lot in the last month. It was a very tight game and there wasn't a lot in it. Neither goalkeeper had an awful lot to do.

"Our attitudes were very good and we kept going. But we didn't really have the quality to break them down and that was the difference."

City stopper Craig King was the first of the goalkeepers called into action as he turned away a powerful Bradley Tarbuck shot round the post in the fourth minute.

The Hoops threatened with a couple of dangerous free kicks but neither Joe Oastler or Matt Paterson packed their goal scoring boots.

And it was the away side who grabbed the opener and what proved to be the match winner.

The last in a series of corners was driven in low to Prior, who turned and found a way beyond a sea of bodies and King in first half stoppage time.

City went close to equalising straight after the break when Sam Nombe had a goal-bound effort blocked but, despite Jones making attacking changes, City struggled to break their visitors down.

Oxford are 16th in the National League South on 38 points from 33 games. They travel to play-off chasing Welling United (8th) on Saturday.

Matt Paterson's agile leap wins the ball Picture: *Michael Allen*

Sandy's quartet extends Puritans' unbeaten run

Banbury

A STUNNING four-timer from Elliot Sandy dismantled Farnborough Town as Banbury United raced to a 4-1 home win on Saturday.

The victory – their first ever against Farnborough – extended the north Oxfordshire side's unbeaten run to six matches as they consolidate a top-10 finish in the Southern Premier League.

An uneventful opening half-hour gave no indication of what was about to unfold.

Ricky Johnson had a goal chalked off for offside but United began to dominate and took the lead on the half hour when Sandy fired home from six yards.

There was little between the sides in the first half but it took just 35 seconds after the restart for Banbury to double their lead as Sandy found the back of the net from six yards again.

Farnborough, who were reduced to 10 men late on, responded well and pulled a goal back on 57 minutes through Jaydon Antwi.

Visiting custodian Craig Bradshaw violently knocked over Johnson right on the goal line and duly received a straight red card on 79 minutes.

Outfield player CJ Fearn went in goal but had no chance with the Sandy spot-kick as the United man completed his hat-trick.

The striker was not finished and, in the 89th minute, fired home a 20-yard free-kick low into the corner of the net for his fourth.

Banbury (9th) travel to Royston Town (7th) on Saturday.

Four goals in second 45 net three points for Thame

Evo Stik round-up

A STRONG second half performance helped Thame United thrash a hard working Marlow side 4-0 at home on Saturday.

United, who only made two changes from their 6-0 drubbing against AFC Rushden & Diamonds last Tuesday, scored all four goals in the second half.

Dan West (56 minutes) broke the deadlock before a Luke Ricketts double (61 & 75) secured the points. A Jamie Essex header rounded off the win with eight minutes to go.

Playing with a strong wind in the first half, the visitors opened brightly and spurned a couple of early half chances. The away side enjoyed the bulk of possession but the sides went in level and goalless at the break.

West coolly slotted home to open the scoring on 56 minutes and, five minutes later, Ricketts made it two from close range.

Ricketts rifled home a first-time volley into the roof of the net for 3-0 on 75 minutes before Essex popped to head home a corner and complete a memorable second half.

Thame are 11th in the Evo-Stik South East division on 48 points from 30 games.

In the West division, North Leigh against Kidlington and Didcot Town's visit to Bishops Cleave were postponed due to waterlogged pitches.

Brookes crowned champions in action-packed final

Conference Cup

OXFORD Brookes Women's FC Firsts overturned a 3-1 half-time deficit to miraculously seal a 6-5 victory over city rivals Oxford University Women's Firsts with a 95th minute cup final winner.

The conference cup final win at Oxford City on Wednesday last week earned Brookes an historic league and cup double.

Brookes broke the deadlock on 25 minutes when Pipa Burge latched onto a header from Dana Lytle to volley in a screamer from near the half way line.

The tide turned in Oxford's favour within four minutes as they clawed two back in quick succession before adding a third as the referee's whistle sounded half time.

Two more goals early in the second half looked to have ended any hopes Brookes had of taking home the silverware.

Brookes' captain Ellen Surtees grabbed the game by the scruff of the neck, scoring direct from a corner to kick-off the come back.

Alice Bates then guided in a free kick from 20metres out before Lucy Slater tapped in a corner to test Oxford's mettle.

With five minutes to go, Surtees scored the unlikely equaliser to level the score at 5-5 before Burge broke Oxford hearts with a dramatic winner deep into injury time to crown Brookes Midlands Conference Cup champions.

Oxford Brookes Women's Football Club came from 5-1 down to win the Midlands Conference Cup final last week

Oxfordshire leagues results

Vanarama National League South
Saturday 10 March
Oxford City 0-1 Havant & Waterlooville

Evo-Stik South Premier
Saturday 10 March
Banbury United 4-1 Farnborough

Evo-Stik South East
Saturday 10 March
Thame United 4-0 Marlow

Evo-Stik South West
Saturday 10 March
Bishops Cleave P-P **Didcot Town**
North Leigh P-P **Kidlington**

Uhlsport Hellenic League Premier Division
Saturday 10 March
Royal Wootton Bassett 1-1 **Abingdon United**
Windsor P-P **Wantage Town**
Tuesday 13 March
Oxford City Nomads P-P **Wantage Town**

Oxfordshire Senior Cup semi-final
Tuesday 13 March
Kidlington P-P **Banbury United** (at North Leigh)

Honours even in points and for red cards

Hellenic round-up

ABINGDON United conceded late on to return from Saturday's trip to Royal Wootton Bassett Town with one point instead of three.

John Dennis scored the Oxfordshire side's only goal of the game on seven minutes to put his side in front.

A cross from the right found its way to the forward who clipped a first time shot in off the post.

Tom Butler thought he'd doubled the away team's lead on 55 minutes but his goal was ruled offside.

Stephen Yeardley saw a straight red for the home side on 83 minutes, which seemed to rally Royal Wootton Bassett into one last push.

United held on to their lead until the 90th minute when Callum Wright's free kick ricocheted off the bar causing chaos in the Abingdon defence allowing Dale Richards to fire in a half volley.

Adding insult to injury, Abingdon captain Cian McCormack was given his marching orders late on when the referee judged him to be the last man after bringing down the opposition player.

The result moves Abingdon ninth in the Hellenic Premier Division on 31 points.

On Saturday, Abingdon United host Oxford City Nomads at Northcourt in an all Oxfordshire clash.

Wantage Town also return to action on Saturday when they take on visitors Brackley Town Saints.

Todd canes ref over his penalty decision

By George Welch

AFC Wimbledon 2

Lyle Taylor 32, Jon Meades 71

Oxford United 1

Todd Kane 38

Attendance: 4,592 (743 away)

Chelsea loanee Todd Kane, in action here earlier in the season, scored but was livid about the referees performance. Picture: *Steve Daniels*

OXFORD United were left 'disgusted' after full back Todd Kane was controversially penalised for a spot kick in Saturday's 2-1 defeat at fellow strugglers AFC Wimbledon.

The on-loan Chelsea right back has called for referee Christopher Sarginson to be sacked after he slipped and Harry Forrester, who was behind him, tumbled for a 32nd minute penalty and the Dons' opener.

"It absolutely wasn't a penalty at all," Kane said.

"I've gone to cover, the grass took my foot out and that's it – I've slipped in front of the guy and I don't know what happened from there.

"The referee was absolutely diabolical. We were never going to get anything.

"I told the referee after the game that he was absolutely horrendous. If he wants to give me a red card it's no problem. I'm not happy about it at all."

Caretaker boss Derek Fazackerley was equally as frustrated, describing the decision as "strange".

He said: "It's a strange decision. Todd's just turned in the penalty area to run towards the ball, the striker's behind him, Todd slips, the striker slips over Todd, the ball is 10-12 yards away.

"How he deems it a penalty I have no idea whatsoever. But he did and he gave it."

Lyle Taylor converted the penalty to put the hosts ahead but, of all people, Kane levelled for the U's just before half time, slotting home after Dons goalkeeper George Long parried Isaac Buckley-Ricketts' initial effort.

In the second half substitute Wes Thomas spurned a brilliant chance for United when he fired straight at Long from inside the penalty area after pouncing on a Deji Oshilaja mistake.

Former Oxford man Jon Meades scored his first goal since October 2016 to earn struggling Wimbledon three points against out-of-form Oxford.

Fazackerley said afterwards that he was pleased with the first half performance but that his players struggled when the Dons changed system.

The Yellows have now lost seven of their last nine matches.

They find themselves in 17th place in the SkyBet League One table, four places and four points above the relegation zone.

In-form Peterborough United (6th) are the visitors to the Kassam on Saturday.

Josh Ruffels posted this picture as he and teammates met the car last year

£510 transfer fee for duffer

A 'DUFFER' car recruited by former Oxford United boss Pep Clotet has raised more than £500 for charity.

When the Spaniard bought the unique L Reg Rover Metro he announced that, each week, he would ask the 'worst trainer' in the first team to drive it for seven days.

But with Clotet now sacked – and back as Garry Monk's sidekick at Birmingham City – the club decided to sell the car, which was signed by the players, and raise funds for struggling Helen & Douglas House, our charity of the year.

A total of £510 was raised following the car's listing on eBay last week, with the money going towards the East Oxford hospice's Radiothon event.

The Rover, which has clocked up 103,500 miles, was unveiled when midfielder Josh Ruffels got a closer look at the then-'new whip' when he posted this picture on Instagram.

The service history is unknown and it is believed the MOT had expired by the time bidding closed.

Advertising the distinctive car, Helen & Douglas House posted: "This car has pedigree, it currently belongs to Oxford United and is a forfeit car for their 'duffer' player of the week.

"They must drive it as a punishment but you can drive it with pride. The gorgeous vehicle has been signed by all the players and you could buy it.

"An Oxford United player will even deliver it to winning bidder (within Oxfordshire)."

Robbo to pull on yellow shirt again in testimonial

AN Oxford United XI will take on a Liverpool Legends XI in a testimonial to honour Les Robinson.

Only five players have made more appearances for the U's than the popular full back, who featured 458 times after signing in 1990.

Liverpool are one of only two clubs Robinson did not play against during his career and now he will get the chance – 17 years after leaving United thanks to ex-U's team-mate John Durnin.

Paul Walsh and Mark Wright, a former United player and manager, are among those set to dust off their boots and feature for the Merseysiders.

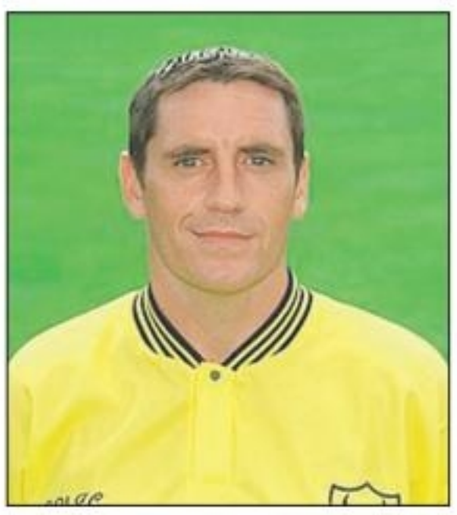
Robinson said: "It will mean the world to me to put the United kit on again and lead the team out.

"I am so grateful and am really looking forward to it.

"Durns has done us proud getting Liverpool to town and I am sure it will be a fantastic occasion for everybody."

The eagerly awaited match will kick off at the Kassam at 2pm on May bank holiday Monday, May 7.

Tickets will go on sale shortly from United's ticket office, priced at £10 for adults, £5 for under 18s and £1 for under sevens.



Unbeaten after draw against rivals Swindon

OUFC Youth

OXFORD United's Under-18s continued their unbeaten start to the Merit League with a 1-1 draw against old rivals Swindon Town on Saturday.

Swindon started the game well and United needed keeper Niall Clayton to make a magnificent reflex save after 11 minutes to somehow keep out a shot from six yards.

Clayton and his defence, skippered by Matt Berry-Hargreaves, dealt with most things, clearing a number of crosses and set pieces and allowing those further forward to get on the ball.

That paid off after 23 minutes when right-back Dan Carr crossed for top scorer Albie Hopkins to cleverly lift the ball over the keeper and give the young U's the lead.

United had opportunities to kill the game off after the break but were pegged back by Swindon seven minutes from time.

Aaron McCreadie could have won it for Oxford two minutes later but the ball got stuck under the midfielder's feet when one-on-one.

There was one final chance in injury time when a James Cowan free kick found sub Fabio Lopes who forced the Swindon stopper into a good save and the points were shared.

The Oxford youngsters have won one and drawn two of their three Merit League One fixtures. They travel to Bournemouth, who have won, drawn and lost their opening three games, on Saturday.

SkyBet League 1		GP	GD	PTS
1	Blackburn Rovers	37	35	76
2	Shrewsbury Town	35	21	71
3	Wigan Athletic	33	39	68
4	Rotherham United	36	17	62
5	Scunthorpe United	37	10	58
6	Peterborough United	36	13	56
7	Plymouth Argyle	36	1	54
8	Charlton Athletic	35	-2	51
9	Bristol Rovers	36	-2	50
10	Bradford City	34	-3	50
11	Gillingham	36	2	49
12	Portsmouth	36	-4	49
13	Southend United	36	-12	46
14	Blackpool	36	-4	45
15	Walsall	37	-7	44
16	Doncaster Rovers	36	-1	43
17	Oxford United	35	-3	42
18	AFC Wimbledon	36	-11	41
19	Oldham Athletic	35	-10	40
20	Northampton Town	36	-22	39
21	Fleetwood Town	35	-11	38
22	MK Dons	35	-15	35
23	Rochdale	33	-8	33
24	Bury	36	-23	30

VALE WHITE HORSE Sport

More sport inside: U's: Slip to 17th after another defeat | F1: Teams feeling positive after testing | MotoGP: Gearing up for the new season

Fans promised new boss will bring the 'wow' factor to club

52 days since Pep sacked

By George Welch

OXFORD United owner Sumrith 'Tiger' Thanakarnjanasuth is confident he has found a manager with the 'wow' factor to finally replace the sacked Pep Clotet – but the new man will not be in the dugout for Saturday's game.

In an update on Tuesday, the new owner and chairman said a preferred candidate has been selected but that the appointment will not be made by the time Peterborough visit the Kassam.

The Thai businessman said: "I spent time last week talking to an extremely strong shortlist and then met with our preferred final candidate over the weekend.

"He has indicated that he wants to come here and I think that provided we can sort out the finer points of the contract then he would have a real 'wow ' factor for the fans and send very strong signals out that we mean business and are serious about moving this club into a higher division.

"The only issue right now is the timing once again. Hopefully it will become clear after the appointment why it has taken so long because it is not an easy situation."

He added: "I do not want to ask fans for their patience again because they have already shown plenty and I thank them for that.

"We believe we will be able to announce an appointment next week."

It is now 52 days since the U's sacked Pep Clotet – during which the side have lost five of their seven games in all competitions.

Sumrith 'Tiger' Thanakarnjanasuth believes the new manager will be announced next week and fans will be wowed by the appointment

Nine other English Football League teams have lost and replaced managers – 10 if you include the interim manager at Cambridge – since the club parted company with the affable Spaniard.

The U's have lost five of their seven games in all competitions under the stewardship of caretaker boss Derek Fazackerley, who will again will be in charge for the Posh game on Saturday.

When Tiger was officially unveiled on February 26, he promised a decision would be made 'within 48 hours'.

Last week he asked supporters for patience and wanted to meet candidates over the weekend before making a decision.

Charlton boss Karl Robinson remains the favourite with the bookmakers, although he distanced himself from those reports when quizzed last week.

So nice to be in Nice...

The weather may not be what you normally expect in the South of France but that didn't deter F1 fans from taking to the streets to watch Renault test out cars past and present ahead of the return to the French Riviera's Paul Ricard circuit in June after the 10-year absence of the French Grand Prix.
Picture: *Renault Sport Formula One Team*

■ **More F1 news inside including round-up from testing**

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